

The Diary and Journal of General Sir John Wilton



The Diary and Journal of General Sir John G. N. Wilton, Royal Australian Army

1910 - 1977



Father; Mother (Bella Donna by Norman Carter)

Date of birth 22nd November 1910 at Sydney (St Margaret's Hospital).

(Deceased May 10, 1981)

Father Noel Valentine Selby Wilton (born Bath, England. Son of Thomas Wilton — solicitor of that city.)

Mother (nee Muriel Amy Bingham, born England)

My Father emigrated to Australia about 1907/1908. He was a qualified engineer but his first job in Australia was as a wharf labourer. He eventually got a job as engineer in power station in Sydney. The family went to live in Hobart, Tasmania, in about the year 1912. My Father at this time was an engineer with the Tasmanian Hydro Electric Commission. Maurice and I returned with Mother to Sydney about 1916. Maurice and I returned to Hobart about 1917 and went to school at Leslie House School (now Clunis College).

September 1922: Father, Maurice and I went to Grafton, N.S.W. when Father took the job of Chief Engineer and Manager of the Clarence River County Council. In this same year Father and Mother

were divorced and Father married Mollie Gaffney early in 1923.

My half sister, named Noel Margaret, was born 21 March 25. My half sister, named Mary Dorothea, was born 27 April 26. My half sister, named Gwaine Patricia, was born 1. Sept. 28

From 1922 —1926 I went to the Grafton High School.

February 1927 went to the Royal Military College (R.M.C.), Duntroon, Australian Capitol Territory (A.C.T.)

1928 at R.M.C. Duntroon. My half sister, Gwaine Patricia, was born this year. 7 Sept. 28

* born 10. Feb 09

1929

At R.M.C. Duntroon.

1930

At R.M.C. Duntroon. Met Helen when I went to Sydney to play in annual R.M.C. v G.P.S. Rugby.

December 1930: graduated from R.M.C. (6th) and was subsequently commissioned as 2/Lieut in the Royal Artillery as from date of graduation. The commission was antedated to my 20th birthday (22/11/30).



Saw a great deal of Helen prior to departure.

Embarked for England on R.M.S. Naldera February 1931. Arrived in England March 1931. After spending 10 days in London joined the School of Artillery at Larkhill, Salisbury Plain.

20/3/31 to 17/6/31 on the 11th Young Officers Gunnery Course at Larkhill.

1931

June: Completed Gunnery Course at Larkhill and was posted to 69 Fd Bty R.A. (6th Fd Bde) at Bordon.

November: Embarked on troopship Somersetshire at Southampton on 24/11/37 with my battery en route to India.

20 December: Arrived at Bombay.

24 December: Arrived Fyzabad. My battery stationed there. Remainder of 6 Fd Bde at Lucknow (74 and 79 batteries) and Cawnpore (77 battery).

1932

Stationed in Fyzabad. Other units there at that time were 1 Bn Cameron Highlanders and 4/7 Rajput Rgt. Took two months privilege leave this year and spent it in the Naini Tal, Ranikhit and Bhim Tal area. Had a bout of malaria at end of leave.

“Joe Edelman, self and the jointly owned Morris, Maymyo, Burma 1935”



1933

Stationed in Fyzabad. Went to Practice camp at Delhi (Taghlukabad). Also as range officer to Jhansi practice camp. Went home to Australia on three months leave in June. Sailed from Bombay on the P & O Narkunda and returned in the Mooltan. Whilst in Australia paid brief visit home to Grafton and spent remainder of time in Sydney. Saw a great deal of Helen.

1934

Stationed in Fyzabad. Went to Poona on a signaling course for 3 months in April (Instructor's Certificate)

October: Took one month's leave and went on a mugger shooting trip down the Gogra River with Andrew Campbell (Camerons).

Passed Higher Standard Urdu Exam in September (I.A.O. 578 of 1934).

1935

January: Went to practice camp at Delhi with 6 Fd Bde and after that took part in Eastern Command manoeuvres.

February: Posted to 10 Mountain Battery R.A. stationed at Maymyo in Burma. Joined there on February 2nd.

July: Took 10 days casual leave and went to Rangoon to stay with the Craws. Also played in polo tournament, at Monywa on the Chindwin River. Helped hunt down and kill a tiger near Maymyo.

September: Went to Rangoon to take my practical exam for promotion — subject (a) and passed (B.I.D.O. 765/1935). Went to Yennanyoung (oilfields) to play in a polo tournament.



November: Proceeded to the WA States, on the Burma Chinese border, as part of the military escort to the Boundary Commission which was to settle the disputed boundary. I had one gun with the necessary detachment of men and mules (50 men and 27 mules).

1936

May: Returned to Maymyo from WA States on 14/5/36.

Proceeded on 8 months combined leave ex Burma on 25/5/37. Embarked at Rangoon on 28/5/36 on steamer "Karagola" and arrived Singapore 3 June. At Singapore transhipped on to Burns Philp steamer "Marella" and sailed for Sydney on 3 June, touched at following ports: Batavia, Sourabaya, Samarang, Port Darwin, Thursday Island, and arrived Brisbane 23 June. Saw my Mother there.

24 June arrived Sydney. Remained in Sydney until 11th July staying with the Morcombes at 36 Gurner Street. Saw Phil Morcombe for one day only — his boat sailed for India on 25th June, his leave having expired. Bought a second hand Stower car for which I paid £30. Saw a great deal of Helen during this period.

11 July Set off for Grafton by road. Unfortunately had two breakdowns en route — the same big end bearing in each case. Eventually arrived in Grafton on 19 July where I found all the family waiting to receive me (except Maurice whom I saw in Sydney). Father was not well; had doctor's orders not to do any work for three months. Route followed by road from Sydney to Grafton was — Newcastle - Muswellbrook - Tamworth - Armidale - Nymboida - Grafton (i.e. Tablelands route).

9 August: Set off by road (coastal route) for Brisbane to pay a visit to my Mother. Stopped night at Ballina en route.

10 August: Arrived at Brisbane. Lived in flat on Bowen Bridge Road, Windsor. 17-22 August spent mostly at the Brisbane Show.

31 August: Left Brisbane by road to return to Grafton. Route taken was — Beaudesert - Kyogle - Casino - Coraki - Maclean - Grafton.

1 September: Arrived Grafton. Father's health worse.

5 August: Father and Mollie went to Southport for a holiday.

9 August: Left Grafton for Sydney by road via coastal route. Stopped night en route at Port Macquarie and Newcastle.

11 August: Arrived in Sydney. Staying with the Morcombes again.

Did a number of trips to places round Sydney which I had previously not seen: Frenchs Forest - National Park - Newport - Sans Souci - Kuringai Chase - Berowra. one night had a collision with a tram. The only damage done was a bent axle to the Stoewer which was soon put right in a workshop in Woolloomooloo!

3 October: Set off on a trip down the South Coast with Maurice - we were to have stopped for a few days with Nell and Keith at Berry but owing to bad arranging on the part of Maurice that had to be cancelled. We stayed at Austimmer for two days, but the weather was poor and we didn't enjoy it much.

5 October: Maurice and I drove to Wollongong. From there he caught a train back to Sydney. I drove on to Moss Vale via the Macquarie Pass.

6 October: Drove from Moss Vale to Canberra and stayed with Warren McDonald (Mollie's cousin).

7 October: Canberra. Paid a visit to Duntroon and saw the new buildings of the R.M.C. nearing completion. Also went to Parliament House where I met Col. Harrison and had a chat (he was commandant at Duntroon when I was there as a cadet).

8 October: Left Canberra and drove to Caulderwood (near Gundagai) via Yass. Stayed with the Coggans at Caulderwood until 15th October. Caulderwood is a small sheep station; during the time I was there shearing was in progress. Shearing time is the busiest time on a station. I did the duties of "roustabout" whilst there - good fun for a while but quite strenuous work - a roustabout is really an aspirant to the job of shearer and corresponds to the plumber's mate or the bricklayer's labourer.

15 October: Drove from Caulderwood to Moss Vale.

16 October: Drove from Moss Vale to Sydney. Again stayed with the Morecombes.

18 October: Left Sydney for Grafton by train.

19 October: Arrived at Grafton. Was met by Father who looked very ill.

2 November: Doctor Woodward sent Father to Runnymede hospital.

He ought to have done it earlier as he has been having heart attacks regularly during the last ten days.

9 November: Mollie arrived back from Tasmania, having flown the stretch from Sydney. Father nearly died last night, he had a very bad attack. I am very relieved to have Mollie back as I felt the strain very badly during her absence.

12 November: Left Grafton by train for Sydney.

13 November: Arrived Sydney. Made arrangements for departure for Wollongong.

14 November: Helen and I set off for Wollongong by car. Stopped at Crown Hotel this night.

15 November: At Crown Hotel, Wollongong.

16 November: Moved from the hotel to Marline Court which is situated near the beach. Spent a very happy three weeks in Wollongong - the happiest I've ever spent. Had a very lazy life, bathing etc. and made a few trips. Helen and I went down and saw Keith and Nell at Berry one day.

6 December: Helen and I drove back to Sydney. Had some trouble getting the old Stoewer (Trixie) up the Bulli Pass. She boiled once.

7 December Fixed final details of return journey to Burma. Had some trouble selling Trixie - eventually sold her to a mechanic for £10. I had my £20 worth of fun out of her and would have had a much less enjoyable leave without her. The only real trouble she ever gave was the two breakdowns at the start, which mainly my fault in not realising the oil consumption. Nevertheless she was a brute to drive.

9 December: My last night in Sydney - with Helen.

10 December: Departed by train for Melbourne - an uncomfortable journey in 2nd class. Also I had a bad cold

11 December: Arrived in Melbourne. Spent a few days here with object of seeing the Military people at A.H.Q. to sound them as to whether I could get an appointment in the Australian Staff Corps which would enable me to return permanently to Australia, but only received slight encouragement. Renewed my acquaintance with A.D. Molloy and Stanley Hill. Also saw quite a lot of the Hancock girls - Mary and Laura. Laura is a great girl. She was trying to interest me in the Oxford Group but went about it so gradually and hesitantly that she hadn't a chance in the time available. Whilst in Melbourne I stayed at a private hotel called Milton House situated in Little Flinders Street.

15 December: Left Melbourne by train for Adelaide.

16 December: Arrived Adelaide. Changed into Transcontinental train for Perth and left same day.

19 December: Arrived in Perth after a unique and interesting journey by train across Australia. From Adelaide to Perth is hot and dusty and only worth doing once. Shall never travel that way again unless I can afford to go 1st class and travel in the air conditioned carriage. The Nullarbor Plain was immense and impressive - the most impressive sight I've ever seen. Spent the night at the Wentworth Hotel.

20 December: Embarked on the M.V. Gorgon for Singapore. The Gorgon belongs to the Blue Funnel line. She is a small but comfortable ship and I had a very pleasant voyage in her. En route we called at Geraldton and Carnarvon on the coast of W.A.

26 December: Arrived at Sourabaya. Went ashore and had a disgusting day.

30 December: Arrived in Singapore. Went ashore and paid a visit to the gunners at Blakang Mati island; also did a few of the sights of Singapore.

31 December: Transferred to the S.S. Klandalla - B.I. line for Rangoon. Sailed at 5.30 p.m.

1937

1 January: Arrived at Penang late tonight.

2 January: Went ashore at Penang. Saw Mollie's cousin Chris Miles and her daughter, Mary. Sailed again same day.

5 January: Arrived Rangoon 6 a.m. Stayed with the Craws for the night.

6 January: Caught the Mandalay Mail train tonight.

7 January: Arrived Maymyo having come from Mandalay up the hill by car. On return from leave found several changes in the battery. Joe Edelmann and Fergie had gone to England and that MacCarthy and Cowie had taken their places. The two latter were at that time away in the WA States with detachments. That left only the Major and I with the battery for duty. During January I lived in my own bungalow and had meals with the Elliots. Also had some good polo this month, in addition to my own pony Ptolemy I had those belonging to Cowie and MacCarthy.

Decided to take my written promotion exam in March.

During this month also decided that to transfer to the I.A.O.C. would solve my present difficulties, i.e. earn more money to get married with; also to be able to help Mollie with the girls in case of Father's death leaving them unprovided for; secondly, to give myself a more satisfying and specialised job.

February: The Major and I went off to camp, with the remainder of the battery, to KANGYI.N.SS. That was a busy time because in addition to the usual exercises and manoeuvres - which were fairly strenuous - I utilised all my spare time in studying for my exam. About the third week of this month I heard the news of Father's death. I then made the first move in my transfer to the I.A.O.C. and was told that I would be accepted as soon as I applied officially. Decided not to apply until September so as not to upset the leave situation in the battery.

March: Returned to Maymyo a few days before the battery and sat for the exam which I passed with very satisfactory marks, considering the amount of preparation I had done for it. Cowie and MacCarthy returned from the WA States at the end of the month and the battery was complete again for the first time in several months.

April: Cowie and MacCarthy went off on leave to England. The latter got married whilst on leave. Old Freddie and I were left holding the baby again.

June: Went off on 10 days leave to Kalaw in company with John Warren (Burma Rifles), had a pleasant easy time, played golf most of the time.

July: Started to study for my promotion in exam in gunnery.

August: commenced an allowance of £4 per month to Mollie to assist her with the girls.

September: MacCarthy returned from leave plus wife - a nice girl. Sent in my application for transfer

and was told I couldn't be allowed to go as the regiment was too short of officers. Applied again.

October: Cowie returned from leave. Sat for gunnery exam and passed.

November and December: Cowie and I got on well together and shared a bungalow and cook. A pleasant couple of months except for the anxiety re the transfer. Before the Xmas holidays the whole battery marched to Mandalay and camped in the fort. The object of the move was to take part in a Tattoo, which we did with success. The inhabitants of Mandalay had not seen a gun since the annexation of Upper Burma, I believe. We combined business with pleasure and stayed on in Mandalay for the Xmas week and had a good time. The four battery officers entered a team in the polo tournament. We had some exciting matches but were too badly mounted to do any good. Whilst in Mandalay received the news that I would be permitted to transfer to the I.A.O.C. after 1st April.

1938

January and February: Went to camp at Wetwyn on January 22 - whole battery. Training - practice with live shell - manoeuvres.

6th March the battery marched back to Maymyo completing a 37 mile march in 16 hours! Almost a record. It took nearly a week for us to recover, including the mules.

March: On return from camp commenced to prepare for the move of the battery from Burma back to India. Our new station in India is to be Ambala. Then followed a hectic couple of weeks, handing over, packing up, farewell parties - including a big drink party to the whole station which cost us Rs200/-. On 22 March entrained for Rangoon and had a great farewell from all the other units in the station. There were two bands at the railway station.

Arrived Rangoon 23rd.

24th embarked at dawn on B.I. ship "Egra" and sailed for Calcutta at 10 a.m.

27th: Arrived Calcutta. Entrained same day and commenced our long railway journey to Ambala.

30th: Arrived at Ambala at dawn. Ambala at this time of year is dry, hot and dusty.

Posted to I.A.O.C. to join at Ferozepore Arsenal.

April 5th: Left Ambala by train and arrived Ferozepore same day. Was met by C.O.O. and shown my quarters. Am living in R.A. Mess for present.

6th Made my first appearance at the Arsenal. it struck me as a vast hive of activity. Not having been in an Arsenal before, I was impressed by its magnitude and wide scope of activity - much greater than I had imagined. Decided that I was going to be interested in my new job. Everyone is too busy to give me any instruction so shall have to learn what I can for myself.

Joined Ferozepore club.

Had bowel trouble, probably due to the water most enervating and weakening. Like all other stations, Ferozepore has its own peculiar water to which the stomach must accommodate itself. However, the initiation period in other stations has never had such drastic effects as this place.

End of April went to live in Arsenal House which was run as a chummary by Major A.U. Douglas

Iones (CVO), self, Sandy Gordon (S.O.M.E.) and Ken Anson.

May: Hot weather commences in earnest. Average maximum temperature 111 degrees F. Hot, dry and dusty. Detailed for ammunition course at Kirkie in middle August.

Decided to go on two months leave prior to course and get married whilst on leave and bring Helen back with me to Kirkie, where the climate is bearable at that time of the year. Got accustomed to new job and settling into a regular routine.

June: Stifling weather. Everyone is counting the days to when they can go on leave.

On 13th June caught the train for Bombay to go on leave. Up to the last moment thought that the frontier trouble in Waziristan would cause my leave to be cancelled. Train journey was very hot as far as Agra, after which place we ran into monsoon rains which lasted all the way to Bombay. Stayed night at Taj Mahal Hotel and sailed for Sydney on the Narkunda on 16th.

19th June spent a day ashore at Colombo.

28th: Fremantle. Good lunch at Carlton Cafe.

July 2nd: Adelaide.

4th Melbourne: Visited A.H.Q. Learnt to my surprise that it was now possible for me to transfer to the Australian Staff Corps and return to Australia permanently. Decided at once to apply - before going to the I.A.O.C. I had decided that if the opportunity had occurred I would prefer to return to Australia.

Went to Sydney by train - air conditioned, very comfortable and very fast. Arrived Sydney on 5th at 8 a.m. Found Helen in bed - only a cold and nervous excitement. Stayed with Henry Sharpe and his wife (Flora, sister of Helen) in their small flat at Bondi. Followed a few hectic days, shopping and making arrangements for the wedding. Also sent off my application for transfer, asked for reply by cable - hoping my leave would be extended if my transfer could be put through quickly.

9th July Helen and I were married at St Andrew's Church, Summer Hill, Sydney. The photographers kept Helen from starting on time with the result that she was 17 minutes late! Mr Bidwell performed the ceremony. We had intended being married in the Registry Office but Helen's mother and Mr Bidwell talked us out of that. However, we were both pleased at the arrangement in the end. Spent that night and the following one at Hotel Astra at Bondi.

11th Set off to Gladstone by train, arriving same day. Stayed with Mollie and the girls for two nights. Mollie is comfortably settled in her hotel and seems to be able to make a living for herself and the girls out of it.

12th Set off on a motor tour up the North Coast Mollie lent us her little Standard car. Stayed one night each at Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Yamba. Returned to Gladstone on 16th and caught train same night for Sydney.

17th Arrived Sydney and put up at Hotel Metropole a very small room.

19th Received cable ordering me to return to Ferozepore. Decided Helen could not return with me.

22nd Sailed on return journey to India, leaving Helen behind - a sad but necessary break, in the circumstances. She is to go up to Gladstone and wait till I send for her to join me.

24th-26th Melbourne. Visited A.H.Q. again. Paid several visits to dentist - 2nd molar giving a great deal of trouble.

28th Adelaide. Paid visit to Merry's.

August: 1st Arrived Fremantle. First visit dentist - had tooth extracted - face numbed rest of day.

10th: Day ashore at Colombo. Went for a trip to Candy.

13th: Arrived Bombay. Caught Punjab Mail same night.

15th Arrived Ferozepore. Hot. D.J. on home leave. Straight to work. Find there will be indefinite delays about the transfer and, owing to leave, plenty of work to do, everyone has several jobs.

September: Decided that Helen should come to India. Wrote and cabled accordingly.

October 8th closed up Arsenal House and went to live in Hotel.

10th: Helen arrived. Still no news of transfer. Have resigned ourselves to indefinite delay of some months.

December: Heard during first week of this month that I was posted to 13th Heavy Battery R.A. Karachi, pending final disposal of my application. Major Skinner (C.O.O.) showed great reluctance to fix a date for my departure. However, finally made him agree to release me first week in January. We left Ferozepore on 31st December and to Lahore to spend New Year weekend with the Bates in Lahore.

1939

January: Had a very pleasant weekend in Lahore. Departed for Karachi on 3rd January. The train journey took 24 hours and is the dustiest I've ever done. To get to Karachi from the Punjab the Sind desert has to be crossed and the fine sand and dust is stirred up by the train and comes into the carriage through every crack and joint and fills hair, mouth and nose, making the journey intensely unpleasant and uncomfortable. We tried to seal up the doors and windows with wet newspaper.

We were very pleased to arrive at Karachi at about 8 a.m. on the 4th. There was no officer or letter to meet us at the station which I considered rather inhospitable. However, a fatigue party had been sent to move our baggage. Went straight to North Western Hotel. Later crossed to Manora and met the Major. There was no accommodation available for us on the island, nor had any attempt been made to arrange any. Altogether, I thought that the Major had been very casual and impolite.

We put up at the N.W. hotel -- a foul place -- for four days and in the meantime I made arrangements to hire tents from the ordnance and have them erected. We had furniture put in the tents and moved in on Sunday, 9th December. The tents are really quite comfortable, especially after the M.E.S. put in electric lights for us. The Mess lent us crockery and cutlery etc. and we get our meals from the Mess kitchen -- not a very satisfactory arrangement as our tents are about 100 yards from the kitchen and also as the food is very poor and badly cooked.

Manora is a very pleasant island on the seaward side of Karachi Harbor. The battery are the only troops on the island. Other inhabitants are Port Trust officials and employees. There is a beach right in front of our tents and a lovely view straight out to sea. The Mess owns its own sailing yacht and tennis court, so we get all the sailing, tennis and swimming we desire.* Am settling down to learn Coast Defence work,

as it is a new branch of gunnery to me.

* Saw in London Gazette dated 6/1/39 that I have been promoted Captain w.e.f. (with effect) 21/12/38.

February: Heard that my application for transfer to Australia had been received in Melbourne and would be considered by the Military Board "at an early date". So we expect to leave here some time in March. At the beginning of this month we commenced making our own catering arrangements under Helen's management. A kitchen has been improvised and the bearer (Lal Mohamed, "L.M.") does the cooking, supervised by her. The food now much better and cheaper than the previous arrangement.

19th Heard today that the Military Board has approved my appointment to the Staff Corps. Have now only to wait until instructions come through the official channels. During the past week there has been rain about, one morning there was very heavy rain for a couple of hours. The water came into the tents in several places. It is not pleasant in tents when it rains. When we do go back to Australia and have a solid roof over our heads, it will seem very luxurious.

The battery commenced its annual practice seawards this week. First sub-calibre (6 pr) and next week we will first full calibre. It is fortunate for me that this is happening before I go. It affords an excellent opportunity of seeing in practice what I have been learning in theory. It is an experience which I hope will prove useful when I return to Australia.

March 10th: Full calibre practice completed last week after setbacks in the form of bad weather which prevented the target towing launch going out of the harbour. Noise, smoke, concussion and flash are features very pronounced in a coast battery and make observation and control more difficult than in field batteries. Learnt a lot from these practices.

The British section of the battery went to camp to do 18 pdr training for last two weeks of the month. Only one officer went, the remainder of us went out when the actual shooting took place.

Heard officially of the approval of my appointment to the Staff Corps - have decided to sail on the 4th May from Bombay on the Strathmore (P & O). Am trying to get a passage for Helen from the Indian government.

April: Vacated our tents at the end of last month and took over George Cangle's bungalow. He remains as a p.g. and is to pay us Rs150/- per month - a very profitable arrangement for him, a very shrewd man is old George. The new D.O. Cole, and his family, occupied our tents the day we left. Two days later there was a terrific rainstorm, about 2" of water in a couple of hours, the tents were nearly washed out.

We were on tenterhooks most of the month waiting for approval for us to come through to depart on May 2nd. The approval came through on the 24th and now it is a question of the money for our passages coming through before we depart. If it doesn't, we'll be hard put to it to meet all our expenses.

May: We departed from Karachi on 2nd May and sailed to Bombay on the Vita. I was given a rotten deal by the Indian government - no leave pending resignation and consequently no pay until reporting for duty with the Australian government.

Sailed from Bombay on the 4th May for Australia. Had no real regrets at leaving India. The ship we traveled on, the Strathmore, was very crowded with refugees from Europe and conditions in the tourist class were not very pleasant. On arrival at Fremantle I received instructions that I was posted for duty

with the Coast Defence Artillery at Sydney.

Arrived Sydney 26th May and reported for duty on the same day and immediately obtained a few days leave to find a home. We chose a flat in Manly as our headquarters until we could find something better.

June: Settling down and getting used to new conditions took quite a while. The outstanding impression I received of Australia's military preparedness was that it is tragically inadequate. Australian Defence is the plaything of Australian politics, and the general public is apathetic and sees in Defence matters nothing to concern them!

July: Moved to a new flat in Manly closer to the barracks; the new flat is modern with all conveniences and has an excellent harbour view. Commenced to form the 12th Heavy Battery R.A.I.F. during this month. Had to start from scratch with myself as the only officer and four N.C.O.s from 2nd Heavy Battery. The rest of the battery consisted of 30 recruits.

August: Started this month with the certainty that war would be upon us very soon. The organisation and training of the battery ran smoothly.

25th August: Orders received to proceed to Port Kembla and install a coast battery of 6" Mk XI guns. Made all arrangements that were possible and departed for Port Kembla at dawn on 26th. Collected parts of the equipment and camp stores en route. Arrived at Kembla; chose the camp site and erected the camp. There were no administrative arrangements made by the Auguststaff for me whatsoever. However, we managed to make ourselves comfortable. Metal Manufactures Ltd were particularly helpful in allowing us the use of their kitchen and dining room and washing facilities.

September: Completed the installation one gun on the 31 August and proofed. Considering the difficulties we considered one week very good time.

[WAR COMMENCES]

The second gun was proofed a week later. Having installed the guns we commenced training and manning. However, the battery can't be considered completely installed until B.O.P.s and numerous other buildings are completed. The war has completely dislocated the ordnance and other supply services, so we can't get the essential remaining equipment for the battery at the moment; as regards the 101 other things we need, there is no hope at all of getting them until the war is over.

The whole trouble is that the government is trying to carry out its war policy with a peacetime organisation. In peacetime, owing to lack of sufficient permanent personnel in the army, the whole army was inefficient, so the present chaos is not surprising. During this month we managed to get leave for two days each fortnight. So we managed to see our wives and sweethearts once a fortnight.

October: Slight progress was made with the building, then owing to lack of funds, all work ceased! The new Command organisation came into effect this month. A number of moves, new promotions and appointments are expected.

November: Handed over command of Kembla Battery to Lieut. Carrilo and returned to North Head and took over command of 2nd Heavy Battery from Lt. Col. Goodwin who had been promoted and posted as CCD to Queenscliff. Owing to depredations by the A.I.F., 2nd Battery practically non-existent so I had to reform it.

With the job of B.C. North Head, I got the B.C.s quarters in barracks. So we moved up here on the 11th November. So now we are very comfortable - I fight my little war during daylight and am able to sleep at home and see my wife each day - much better than the Kembla episode.

Col. Whitelaw took over CCD here from Col. Meredith and occupies the quarters next door. He is an enthusiastic gardener and has started to make a garden. I suppose I'll have to do the same. It seems a hopeless task in pure sand on this windswept headland.

December: A comparatively uneventful month. Our main problem is to get sufficient men to man the forts -- the government want them manned but won't give us any men to do it with, neither can we tell the militia how long we keep them and on what basis. It's the same old story -- we are at war but the government tries to work on a peacetime basis.

January: Still at North Head. Nothing of much import happened during the month. Planted quite a number of flowers in the garden, and am having great trouble keeping the rabbits away.

February: As above. We are expecting our child shortly and hope it will be a boy.

March: The baby was born on the 13th March, a son. He was born at 9 p.m. and weighed 7 lbs 12 oz. - a fine healthy baby. Helen got through the ordeal with no permanent damage. Helen went to the hospital (Wyuna private hospital, Woods Street, Manly) at 2 p.m. on the 13th and came home a fortnight later.

The garden has come on very well and is showing some results - marigold, petunia, zinnias, phlox and lupins are showing some blooms. We also have some sweet peas under way (Helen's favourite flowers). The baby is to be called John David.

The government announced plans to enlarge the A.I.F. to a complete Army Corps so we are all hoping again to be allowed go.

April: The baby gained 7 oz. the first week home from hospital and 9 oz. the second week. He is behaving very well and gives very little trouble. We are both very pleased and satisfied with him. We are training him to behave properly right from the beginning -- we don't believe in spoilt children. Colonel J.S. Whitelaw is going to be the god-father and Nance Harris to be godmother. Took out insurance policies on my life for £1000 and on J.D. for £1000.

May: The past month has been a very happy one for all three of us. Helen and J.D. are well. J.D. is regularly gaining 8 oz. a week. Helen believes in plenty of fresh air and sun and it agrees well with him.

At the end of April I attended a course at the School of Artillery for officers of the Staff Corps selected for duty with the A.I.F. On 7th May I was posted to 2/4 Field Regt A.I.F. as Battery Commander and promoted to Major from the same date. Immediately after the course I went to camp at Puckapunyal, Victoria, where the regiment was being formed. That meant breaking up our home at North Head. Our furniture etc. was stored in the quarters at North Head and Helen and J.D. went to Melbourne to be near me. She stayed at Victoria Hall, St Kilda Road -- an uncomfortable guest house kept by the "Witch" and the "Horse". Every fortnight I used to go there on weekend leave. Helen used to bring J.D. to the camp on alternate Sundays.

The process of forming the regiment was not easy.

We started with a small number of ex militia officers and N.C.O.s, but few of them had had any real

experience. Lt. Col. L.E.S. Barker is C.O. of the regiment and Major Rau is the other B.C. (both of them are ex-Staff Corps officers)

June: The regiment is completely up to strength now and is now well into its recruit training stage. We are having all the usual teething troubles -- officers and N.C.O.s who don't pull their weight and lack of training equipment. However, all are very keen and progress is quite satisfactory.

Helen is still in Melbourne at Victoria Hall.

July: It has been bitterly cold this month. All the troops have been getting colds and "Puck" throat. The sickness has interfered with training quite a lot.

August: The regiment is really beginning to look like a regiment now and are ready to get on with Battery training. Our C.O. has been posted away from us and sent to Palestine to take over command of the 2/1st Field Regt -- apparently the 1st C.O. of that unit failed to make good! We don't know yet who our new C.O. is to be. At present Major Fraser 2 i/c (cont.) of the regiment, is administering command. He is a most ineffective little man, he can't make decisions by himself, he calls in Rau and myself to make his mind up. Consequently, we are running the regiment. The 2 i/c should logically be the next C.O. and should be capable of taking command. I should hate to go into action with Fraser as C.O., all I hope is he is removed before he can do any damage.

I had a few days off this month with the prevailing cold and Pucka throat. Helen and J.D. also had colds, things are very difficult for her at Victoria. Hall. It's a wonder she has been able to stay at the place so long. It is a case of "better the devil one knows....."

September: I am very pleased with the shape my battery is taking. It is pretty well organised and most people know their jobs - as far as they have gone, but everyone has a long way to go yet. Unfortunately we still have a few passengers.

Helen has been rather sick with measles and complications with sinus trouble. She had a very unpleasant fortnight, with a nurse in attendance.

Sept. 21st: Received orders that pre-embarkation leave is to be completed by October 7th. That means we'll be off soon. of course that caused a big stir in the camp and acted as great tonic to troops who were getting a bit stale with camp life.

October: Brought Helen and J.D. to Sydney and installed them in a flat at Milsons Point. My six days leave expires on October 7th when I shall arrive back in the camp. This will be the last I shall see of Helen and J.D. until I return from abroad -- soon I hope (1942?)

September: Sailed for Middle East with my regiment and the rest of 7 Div. I was in the Mauretania. On arrival Bombay we transhipped into a convoy of smaller vessels.

November: Arrived Palestine. Training in earnest continues, somewhat hampered by lack of equipment.

1941

January: Appointed Brigade Major to the Div. Arty.

February: Practice camp in Sinai Desert.

March: Moved by road from Palestine through Egypt to Mersa Matruh in the Western Desert. This was

to be a reserve position in case the Germans pressed their advance toward Egypt having surrounded the 9 Div. at Tobruk. Our division had been intended for Greece but Rommel's activities in Cyrenaica were too great a threat and hence we were sent to Matruh.

April: Prepared defences at Matruh and continued training.

May: The German did not attempt to cross the frontier in force and made no attack on Matruh.

June: The division moved back to Palestine to prepare for advance into Syria to prevent Germans gaining control there.

July: After a strenuous month of campaigning the Vichy French capitulated and our division is now occupying the country. I am still BMRA and we have our HQ at delightful place named Aby near Beyrouth in the mountains.

August: Moved further north to Tripoli. Henry Rourke took over from Berryman as CRA. Did a motor tour throughout Syria during these months -- a country of varied terrain, full of interest and contrasts, a paradise for a student of ancient history.

September: Still in Syria on occupation duties.

November: Training, also preparing a defence line across north of Syria.

December: Posted to Corps HQ as GSO2 and promoted Lieut. Col. Located at Aby near Beyrouth.

Japanese enter war December 7.

1942

January: Orders came for all AIF to leave the Middle East except 9 Div. Destination unknown but probably Burma or Java. I am to remain and attend course at Staff School Haifa.

February: At Staff School Haifa.

May - June: Spent two weeks at base at Gaza awaiting shipment back to Australia. Finally designated as O.C. Troops on "Clan Macaulay" -- a fast freighter. Approx. 200 troops on board of whom 50 are soldiers under sentence ex detention barracks at Jerusalem.

July: Arrived safely back in Australia. Uneventful voyage. The prisoners gave less trouble than expected. Six tried to escape when ship entered Sydney harbour but were quickly dealt with.

August: Posted as GSO.L. 3 Div. Stan Savige Div. Comdr. Division located Maryborough, S. Queensland, later moved to Gympie area (see separate diary entry).

September - January: Intensive training period to prepare division for operations in New Guinea.

1943

February: Sent to New Guinea in advance of division for planning and preparations of operations in Wau Salamaua area.

March: 3 Div HQ took over control of Wau Salamaua area and additional troops moved in. I journeyed on foot to all fronts to make reconnaissance etc., was in a few tough spots. Nearly eaten by mosquitoes in Markham Valley.

April: A strenuous and successful campaign against Japs.

August: During this period ending with capture of Salamaua. Posted as GSO.1 to the Australian Military Mission in Washington U.S.A. Quite a change from the jungle! Returned to mainland via Buna, Moresby, Milne Bay including a most interesting flight along coast from Salamaua in a small Piper cub aeroplane.

September: After a short leave flew across Pacific to Washington via Noumea, Fiji, Canton Island, Hawaii.

November: Helen and J.D. joined in Washington. I was in hospital with malaria when they arrived -- no doubt was infected in Markham Valley in N.G. We found a comfortable and conveniently located flat in Decatur Place (between Massachusetts and Connecticut Aves. Whilst in U.S.A. I toured round the country quite a lot on official visits. Some of the places visited -- Fort Learmonth, Kansas, Key Field Mississippi, Fort Benning Georgia, manoeuvres in S. California, Newport Virginia, West Point, Canada several times on one occasion Helen and J.D. accompanied me. New York we visited several times.

1944

During the summer we rented a furnished house in Virginia about 7 miles out of Washington. That was a very pleasant place and we enjoyed our time there. We had a Plymouth Coupe for our transport.

December: Made a quick visit to London, France, Holland and S. Germany and got good idea of the war in Europe. Saw both U1 and U2 bombs and their result. Just missed being caught in German offensive in Ardennes. Flew Atlantic both ways.

1945

March: John Minogue (Now Sir John Minogue, recently retired as Chief Justice P.N.G.) arrived, to relieve me and we commenced our journey back to Australia. Travelled to West coast by train via Los Angeles. Embarked from San Francisco on Kanangoora, after spending two weeks waiting. We had very comfortable cabin in the Kanangoora which was a small fast freighter (approx. 8000 tons) which only carried about 25 passengers. After a pleasant, uneventful voyage, arrived back in Sydney.

May: After two weeks leave went to Manila via Morotai to take up new post as G.S.O.1 Advanced HQ AMF, the planning section of which was at Manila with General Macarthur's GHQ. After three weeks in Manila returned to Morotai to take up job as Col G.S. and was promoted Col.

April: At Morotai. During period the AIF operations against Japs in Borneo were launched from Morotai.

1946

January: As the senior GS officer I was very busy at the time of Japanese surrender (Aug. 15) and thereafter in connection with the disarming and control of the surrendered Japs. In fact the period August- December was one of the busiest periods I had during the whole war. During the period in the course of my duties I visited all parts of Borneo occupied by our troops, Java, Borneo, Celebes,

Ambon.

February: Returned to Australia via Darwin. After leave posted as DDMO AHQ Melbourne. My main duties in this job are in connection with planning for the Post War Army. We were fortunate in obtaining a flat at 29 Queens Road, Melbourne, formerly occupied by the Berrymans.

(As DMO & P I was not only concerned with OIS and plans for the Army but also the Army member of the Joint Planning Committee. other members were from Navy, Air Force and civilians from Defence and Foreign Affairs Departments.)

1947

January 10th. Second son, Robert Noel, born at Bethesda Hospital.

March: Appointed Director of Operations and Plans AHQ - (DMO & P). I have been acting in the job for five months. Spent two weeks leave in house, lent by Gen. Sturdee, at Ranelagh near Frankston.

(February 1977: N.B. Found this diary when having a clear out of old papers. Any further entries must be based mainly on my memory. The past 30 years is rather a formidable gap to cover!)

DIRECTOR OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AND PLANS

1947 - 1951

The Queens Road flat rapidly became too small for our growing family (two sons and a daughter). So we bought land in the suburb of Heidelberg and had a new house built there for us. After many trials and tribulations with the builder, the house was completed and we moved there in 1949. During these years, life on the domestic front was happy, busy and eventful. This was also a particularly interesting period in Defence (and other National matters). Holding a key staff appointment during this period was no sinecure. Demobilisation was in progress, post war Defence Policy was being evolved and plans for development of the Post War Defence Forces had to be prepared for approval by the government and finally put into execution. Everything was in a state of flux. Towards the end of this two other factors increased the complexity and difficulties of the military planners -- the decision by the new (Liberal) government to introduce National Service (N.S.) and the Korean War.

During this period I was for the first time at the "interface" between the political, economic and military aspects of National Defence policy and strategy. It was an illuminating and instructive period from which I learnt a great deal and which was invaluable to me in later years.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE COLLEGE, LONDON

1952

Towards the end of 1951 I was selected to attend the Imperial Defence College (I.D.C.) in London. It has since been renamed the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Having decided to take my whole family with me, I decided to sell the Heidelberg house and we went to England by sea in a P & O ship. Because my posting to I.D.C. was for one year only I had to pay for the passages for my family to and from England out of my own pocket. In those days the Treasury rule was that postings had to be a minimum of two years for families to be moved with you at government expense.

Despite our financial problems we had a very pleasant voyage.

On the ship was Chester Wilmot and his family. I had previously met him and during the voyage got to know him and his family quite well. During the voyage Chester lent me his proof copy of his book "The Struggle for Europe" which was published in London shortly after our arrival there. This book was deservedly very successful and very timely.

During our year in England we lived in an apartment in a converted country mansion near Ascot. It was an ideal location for family living, secluded ample grounds but within five minutes walk of the railway station from which I commuted daily to London to attend I.D.C. The course was a very broadening experience and it brought together civilians and service officers from all over the Commonwealth (and U.S.A.) and we studied international affairs and the inter-relationship of foreign policy, economics and defence. During the course we made brief visits to various industries to see for ourselves what went on there -- we went down coal mines, saw steel being manufactured, looked at the chemical and aircraft industries etc. Visiting lecturers from universities, all shades of political leaders, industrial managers and trade union leaders, specialists from foreign countries etc. all of these gave us some expert and enlightening views.

During the summer break we were divided into several groups and each group visited a different geographical area of special interest for 3 weeks -- N.W. Europe, North America, Africa, the Middle East. I chose to visit N.W. Europe and we visited France, Belgium, W. Germany, Austria and Northern Italy, including Trieste. It was good value.

By the end of the year all students and staff knew each other fairly well and these relationships, and what we had learnt on the course, were to prove invaluable in later years, particularly to those of us who were fortunate enough to rise to top positions - civil or military - in our various countries.

On the family affairs side, John and Robert went to schools nearby Ascot. (Virginia was too young). During the summer Helen and I had a very pleasant motor tour through England to the Scots Highlands.

On the eve of my departure from England in December 1952 I received a message from Australia that my next appointment would be to Command the Commonwealth Brigade in Korea.

1953

On arrival back in Australia we decided that Helen and family would live in Sydney during the year or so I would be in Korea. (Helen had her problems but that is a story for her to tell.) Before departing for Korea I spent a few weeks being briefed and returning my mind to cope with tactics and the problems of command in the field as opposed to politics -- military matters, and strategy, which I had been studying and thinking about for the past year.

I arrived in Japan in March 1953 en route to Korea. The British logistic base for support of operations in Korea was located at KURE in South Japan. After a few days briefing at KURE by Brig. Pollard



(later Lieut. General Sir Reginald Pollard who was my immediate predecessor as Chief of General Staff), Commander of the Australian Base there, I flew to SEOUL in S. Korea in a RAAF Dakota (DC3) transport aircraft. A very cold uncomfortable trip! (Seoul at that time was a devastated city having been captured and occupied by the N. Korean forces and then recaptured by the UN Forces. I have not visited S. Korea since 1953 but understand it has now been rebuilt into a fine modern city.)

COMMANDER 28 COMMONWEALTH BRIGADE, KOREA

From Seoul I flew to the 28 Commonwealth Brigade sector in a Cessna light aircraft. On arrival I found that my new command had been placed in reserve for a short period of rest from front line activity. By this date (April 1953) the mobile phase of the war virtually over and the opposing forces were each developing strong defensive positions right across the waist of the Korean peninsula generally along the 49th parallel in rugged mountain terrain. During the next six months, until a truce was signed at Panmunjon, there were a number of ma3'or battles to gain or regain better tactical positions but neither side had the intention or resources for a decisive victory.

In April the weather is still extremely cold in S. Korea. My first few nights there were miserable cold ones for me and I was very glad when my predecessor as Bde Comd (Brig Daly, later Lt Gen Sir Thomas Daly who later followed me as Chief of the General Staff) departed and I could then move into the comparative warmth of his Command caravan. The two weeks which my brigade then spent in reserve gave me an excellent opportunity to meet the officers and units of my new command and also those of the other brigades in the Commonwealth Division. This division was responsible for a key area covering the main approaches to Seoul from the north. The division had three brigades -- the 28 Commonwealth Brigade consisting of two Australian battalions and one British battalion, supported by a N.Z. Fd Artillery Regiment and an Indian Field Ambulance, the 29 British Brigade and the Canadian Brigade.

Commander of 29 British Brigade was Brig. J.A. Kendrew whom I got to know well. He was later appointed Governor of Western Australia (Maj. Gen. Sir Joseph Kendrew). Commander of Canadian

Brigade was Brig. J.V. Allard, a colourful figure who later became Canadian CGS and CDS.

Altogether a very interesting division and without doubt the best division in Korea. (Successive U.S. commanders of the UN Force told me personally that this was their assessment. The reasons for this I will write elsewhere.)

During the period of semi-static warfare in 1953 the development and improvement of positions continued. These consisted of a series of deep bunkers with overhead cover with firing apertures in all four sides. The bunkers were connected with each other by deep trenches which in some cases also had overhead cover. Most defensive positions were sited on the sides of hills and mountains, of tactical importance. The valleys between the positions were blocked by minefields which could be covered by fire from the high ground. Both sides patrolled extensively at night in "No man's" land. During the weeks immediately prior to the "cease fire", the enemy mounted a number of major offensives at various selected places right across the UN front. I believe these had both a political and military purpose and to strengthen their bargaining position at the truce table. These attacks would show the world, and particularly Asia, that they had not been defeated! A description of one of the attacks on my brigade position will give a typical example of what occurred. The Chinese had very little artillery (their knowledge of how to use artillery effectively was very limited) but plenty of mortars, so their attacks were not preceded by the artillery barrages used by the UN forces.

On this occasion, which is typical, the Chinese attempted to mount a surprise attack by night on one of my battalions (800) which was occupying a key tactical area. Our patrols detected and reported the unusual activity and were ordered to withdraw to our defences. Our artillery then illuminated the area with star shells. When the main attacking force of the enemy had reached prearranged (by us) target areas adjacent to our positions, our artillery was ordered to fire the defensive barrages. On this occasion we were able to bring the fire of about 100 guns (105 mm) into play. Despite their terrible losses, the Chinese "human wave" continued to press home their attack and attempt to overrun our positions. Those who survived the artillery barrages were mown down by machine gun and rifle fire from our bunkers. Not one enemy penetrated our position. After dawn next day we saw that the approaches to our battalion's position and the valley below (no man's land) were literally carpeted with dead bodies. They were lying almost three deep in the area about 30 metres in front of our bunkers. It was a terrible and gruesome sight. We estimated that the Chinese lost about 2000 men killed in that useless unnecessary attack in which a whole Chinese Regiment (about 4000 men) had been employed. As the wounded are usually more numerous than those killed on these occasions, the Chinese sacrificed a whole regiment that night because the cease fire came into effect a few days later.

1954

After the truce and cease-fire both sides were agreed to withdraw a specified distance from the positions held at the time of the cease-fire. A demilitarised zone was thus established right across Korea. Each side then established and developed new defensive positions. In the case of my brigade the forward edge of my sector fronted on the River Imjin in the vicinity of the 39th parallel.

In the months which followed the cease-fire, until I returned to Australia in 1954, we had to keep constantly alert and prepared for a surprise attack in the event that negotiations at Panmunjon should break down and the cease-fire become ineffective. During this period we paid great attention to maintaining the morale and health of our troops. We worked them hard and kept them busy and provided as much leave and entertainment as was practicable in the circumstances. Without the stimulus of danger which is always present during active warfare, the problem of maintaining morale has to be as well handled as

ensuring they are not exposed to undue risk during operations. During my 14 day leave period I went back to Japan - rested for a few days at Mia Jima. Then some sight-seeing on the mainland islands.

(N.B. I will write elsewhere some views about the strategy, tactics, military capabilities etc. relating to the Korean War)

The above brief account of my year in Korea would not be complete without a reference to the climate -- a mild, beautiful Spring, intensely hot and humid in Summer, pleasant Autumn and bitterly cold in Winter. Also, I met many U.S. senior commanders whom I was again to see on a number of subsequent occasions in S.E. Asia, Vietnam and U.S.A. General Maxwell Taylor was one of these. He later became Chief of Staff U.S. Army, then Chairman U.S. Joint Chief of Staff, then special adviser to President Kennedy and later U.S. Ambassador in Vietnam.

BRIGADIER i/c ADMINISTRATION E. COMMAND

On return to Australia from Korea in March 1954 I was appointed Brigadier i/c Administration at HQ Eastern Command, Victoria Barracks, Sydney. In this appointment I was entitled to a married quarter within the Barracks area and thus ended the housing problems which Helen had endured while I was in Korea. John D. and Robert continued to attend Cranbrook School and Virginia went to St Marks preschool at Darling Point. From the family viewpoint, the 18 months or so I spent as Brigadier i/c Admin. was pleasant and happy. We were well housed and had many friends and relatives within easy reach.

The General Officer Commanding (G.O.C.) E. Command at that time was Lt. Gen. Eric Woodward who subsequently became Governor of New South Wales. In my job I had to deal on behalf of the G.O.C. with all aspects of personnel administration and logistics. It also involved a great deal of routine paper work and long hours at my desk. I learnt a great deal about peacetime administration (as opposed to administration in the field) and rapidly formed the opinion that many of the procedures were unnecessarily involved and cumbersome and needed streamlining. Also authority -- especially financial authority -- was not delegated to the lowest level at which it could be responsibly and effectively exercised. Too many routine papers had to be personally signed by myself, or even the G.O.C., instead of delegating the authority to the responsible officer in charge of the branch or section of the HQ staff concerned. Whilst at E. Command I was able to effect some marginal improvements, but the basic changes required needed policy changes in Canberra. I kept this in mind when I later became Chief of the General Staff.

1955

In September 1955 I was posted to AHQ in Melbourne as B.G.S. In this job I was to control, directly under the C.G.S., three directorates -- Intelligence, Operations and Plans. As I had previously been DMO & P from 1947 to 1951 I was on familiar ground!

This posting meant a further family upheaval and frantic search for accommodation in Melbourne. We eventually secured a flat in Quamby Avenue off Toorak Road, Toorak. A convenient location for all of us. Son John remained as a boarder at Cranbrook until the end of the school year and at the commencement of the following year joined us in Melbourne and then attended Melbourne Grammar School as a day boy. Robert and Virginia attended a small church school on Toorak Road.

We found the flat in Quamby Avenue rather cramped after the comparative spaciousness of the quarters in Victoria Barracks, Sydney, and the other recreational facilities there.

1955 - 1957

In addition to purely army matters, I was again concerned with Joint Service matters and also with International planning matters related to S.E.A.T.O. As the senior Australian planner, I attended a series of S.E.A.T.O. planning meetings in various localities nominated by member countries of S.E.A.T.O. These were held successively in Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Karachi, Hawaii, Wellington (N.Z.).

In addition, I accompanied the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Australian Military Adviser to the annual S.E.A.T.O. Council Meetings.

Also on Army business, related to our troops in Malaysia, I visited Singapore and Malaysia on frequent occasions. (In 1950 I had attended the 5 power meeting at Singapore for discussions on French Indo-China -- at that time the French Forces had not suffered their final defeat at Dien Bien Phu. The French representative at this meeting was Marshal de Latho de Terriguy, the C-in-C of French Forces in Indo-China. He was a fine military figure with a proud and haughty manner. He spoke perfect English but refused to do so at the meeting which he claimed must be held in French and then translated for the benefit of those ignorant people from the United Kingdom, France, Australia, New Zealand and United States who could not speak French. He would listen carefully to the translation and if the interpreter made the smallest error or did not quite get the shade of meaning required, the Marshal would interrupt and give the correct translation in perfect English! At the meeting the Marshal also claimed at the opening meeting that Australia and New Zealand should not be seated and speak at the meeting unless the Vietnamese and Cambodians were also seated. Alternatively, they could attend as observers. He could see no difference in the relationship between France and her colonies in French Indo-China on the one hand, and between the United Kingdom and Australia.

The next morning he made amends by insisting on having press photos showing the Marshal and the Australian Representative (me) embracing each other and talking in very friendly terms. I have no doubt that overnight his political adviser had been advising him and briefing him about relationships between members of the British Commonwealth!

This meeting did not accomplish any tangible results -- not because of the above incident, but because nothing which could have been done at that late stage could have salvaged the French position in Vietnam.

1957

COMMANDANT, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, DUNTROON

In March 1957 I was appointed Commandant, R.M.C., Duntroon and promoted to the rank of Major General. From the family viewpoint (as well as for me professionally), this was a very pleasant posting. Housing presented no problem because a large house with spacious grounds was provided as the official residence of the Commandant. The rent charged was reasonable and had regard to the fact that the Commandant was expected to entertain numerous official and other visitors to the College and also, as the senior military officer then resident in A.C.T., to participate in numerous extra-mural activities in Canberra -- official and social. (The Defence group of departments moved from Melbourne to Canberra in 1959).

Son John remained in Melbourne as a boarder at Melbourne Grammar School from which he graduated with excellent Matriculation results. He then went on to Sydney University. He chose Civil Engineering as his profession and graduated as a Master of Engineering Science in a minimum time of 4 years.



Robert and Virginia accompanied us to Duntroon and from there attended the Canberra Grammar Schools - as day pupils.

The Commandant's task at Duntroon has always been an interesting and challenging one ever since the R.M.C. was established in 1911. Successive Commandants have developed and adapted the course to keep up to date with changes in both the military and civilian worlds but the aim of the College has not changed only the method of achieving the aim has changed. The basic aim of the College is well stated in the "Charter of the R.M.C." as contained in the "R.M.C. Handbook 1977".

In 1957 it was clearly evident that to keep abreast with the modern world it would be necessary to increase the academic content of the course which at that stage comprised about 50% of the total course. It was also necessary to raise academic standards so universities would grant credits for second year subjects as well as for first year. The ultimate objective was for Duntroon to grant its own degrees (instead of a Diploma) which would be recognised by the universities as was already done in U.S.A. in the case of West Point and in Canada at the R.M.C. Kingston.

During my time I endeavoured, without success, to make an arrangement with the A.N.U. My successors continued their efforts and ultimately made a satisfactory arrangement with the University of

N.S.W. which is now current and under which suitable qualified cadets may be granted the Degree of B.A., B.Sc. or B.E. by the University of N.S.W. This arrangement envisaged that, at the end of a ten year period ending in 1978, the R.M.C. would have developed into an autonomous degree granting body. In March 1974 the government announced that an Australian Defence Force Academy would be established at Duntroon to meet the academic requirements of all three services in 3 year courses, and that this would replace the academic courses now conducted at the existing separate service colleges.* The latter would continue to exist but would consist of one year courses concentrating entirely on military studies relating to the needs which were peculiar to each service.

It will be noted that of the four years training which each service cadet of the future will receive, 75% of the course will be academic as opposed to the 50% which existed in 1957 when I became Commandant at R.M.C. It is also most important to know that the academic course at the new Defence Force Academy will be carried out in a "military environment" and the courses will be tailored to meet the special requirements of the Defence Force.

Since 1957 I had been in favour of this kind of arrangement and whilst Commandant at R.M.C., had endeavoured to have the R.A.A.F. (Royal Australian Air Force) attend a common academic course at Duntroon. This failed and the R.A.A.F. embarked on setting up an academic course under an arrangement with the University of Melbourne. A very expensive arrangement for a total of 100 cadets (4 classes of about 25). In those days Service rivalries and jealousies were too strong. So it was with great pleasure that in 1968 I became a member of a Committee chaired by Professor Leslie Martin of Melbourne University to examine the question of a Joint Service Academy. By this time I was Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and was able to exert considerable influence on the Committee. At the time of writing this -- 1977 -- detailed planning is proceeding for the Australian Defence Force Academy (as recommended by the Martin Committee). The target date for the Academy to open is 1980. In the meantime the existing single service colleges will continue to exist.

1957 - 1960

At R.M.C., whilst I was Commandant, I was responsible for the whole college. This meant supervising and coordinating the academic studies, the military studies and the administration. This was done through the Dean (Professor T. Sutherland, who, incidentally, as a young lecturer, had taught me mathematics when I was a cadet in 1927), the Director of Military Art and Colonel i/c Administration. The two latter departments were no problem to me but I was not familiar with the academic world and I learnt a great deal about it during the three years that I was Commandant.

Each year we had a curriculum review committee chaired by me with members nominated by Sydney and Melbourne Universities and the A.N.U. Other members were nominated from Aust Army HQ and N.Z. Army HQ (N.Z. sends about 10 cadets each year to Duntroon). In this way I got to meet many distinguished and helpful professors. At the end of each year I had to preside over a meeting of faculty members to decide the fate of cadets who had not made sufficient progress in their academic or military work or were considered unlikely to develop into effective army officers. Afterwards I had the difficult and often harrowing task of telling these cadets what their fate was to be -- a pep talk to stimulate a cadet or tell a cadet he had to repeat a year or telling a cadet he would be discharged from the R.M.C.! Reasons were given in each case.

Another annual task was the selection of the new entry. This involved visiting the capital of each State of the Commonwealth as Chairman of a Selection Board and testing and interviewing each applicant who was medically fit and suitably qualified educationally. At that time we used to receive about 600

applicants for about 100 vacancies. Of these about 200 were eliminated on medical or educational grounds and I never saw these. From the remaining 400 we had great difficulty in selecting 100 young men who were suitable in all respects - intellectually, physically, emotional stability, leadership potential. A combination not present in most young men. Of the 100 who entered the college, about 70 would graduate - about 20 being eliminated at the end of the first year.

My dealings with staff -- both academic and military -- presented some interesting challenges. The following examples provide a sample.

Religion: The cadet population's religious denominations were a good reflection of the total population of Australia, one-third were R.C.s (Roman Catholics) and the remainder C. of E. (Church of England) and O.P.D. (other protestant denominations). One military instructor became a fanatical Jehovah's Witness and used to have meetings of cadets in his quarters. The official padres of all denominations objected to this "poaching" on their Clocks and reported it to me. I spoke to the officer concerned, pointing out to him that his job was military instruction and not religious instruction, and moreover that although the cadets went voluntarily to meetings at his quarters, he should remember that an invitation to a cadet to come to his quarters was regarded by cadets as equivalent to a command. He could not see this point of view so I had him posted to another appointment away from Duntroon. It should be realised that most cadets in the college were minors and their parents had to agree in writing to their sons entering the college. In the same document they stated the church service they wished their son to attend. So, in a sense, as well as being Commandant, I was acting in loco parentis regarding the cadet's spiritual and moral well-being.

In 1957 there were no official chapels at the college. The church services were carried out in various lecture theatres in different parts of the college. On Sundays they would assemble in one place and then march off in different directions to worship. Early in my appointment I resolved to correct this and get permanent chapels built. Government policy was that the building of permanent chapels in army establishments was the responsibility of the churches concerned. Helped by an energetic committee of serving and retired officers, both Regular and Citizen Military Force (C.M.F.), I managed to get Appeals Committees set up in each state to collect donations to build a chapel complex which would contain two chapels joined by a narthex. This meant that the cadets would all enter the complex by a common entrance foyer and divide when they got inside. As far as I know, this is the only such chapel complex built anywhere.

So it was a kind of ecumenical triumph which required persuasion of, and agreement of, the heads of the various churches in Australia. I was fortunate indeed to have enormous support from the Chaplain General and the services of a brilliant architect. By the time I left Duntroon in 1960 the appeal for funds was doing extremely well and the location of the complex was fixed and the plans and specifications had been prepared. It fell to my successor (Maj. Gen. Knight) to get the chapel built. By the time I returned to Australia from Bangkok in 1962 the chapel had been completed, dedicated and officially opened and was in use. Appropriately, the chapel complex stands almost opposite the entrance to the Commandant's quarters.

Buildings: It was a constant struggle to obtain funds for our building programme designed to replace many of the "temporary" buildings which had been built in 1911 and the additional buildings needed for an expanding cadet population, married quarters for instructors and staff, quarters and messes for single members of the staff, a military instruction wing, a library, and lecture rooms and laboratories for the expanded academic curriculum. I took a keen interest in the design and progress of construction of the buildings which were approved during my time as Commandant. These included the Military

Instruction wing and library, two new cadet blocks and alterations and additions to the cadets' mess, the engineering laboratory and additional Physics and Chemistry block, new barracks and canteen for the soldiers and the staff.

Of the numerous VIPs who came to Canberra, quite a large percentage had a visit to Duntroon included in their itinerary. These included quite a few Heads of State and Chiefs of Staff and senior officers of many nations. In this way I met many interesting and well-known people. For example, President Diem, President of South Vietnam, spent quite a few hours with me, and was very interested in everything -- included in his entourage were a few of his top generals whom I was to see later in Vietnam. General Maxwell Taylor, whom I had known in Korea, came to Duntroon while he was Chief of Staff of U.S. Army. I was to have dealings with him also in Vietnam later on when he then was U.S. Ambassador there.

Sir William Slim was Governor-General of Australia while I was Commandant so I got to know him well. As C in C of the Defence Forces, he used to be the inspecting officer at the more important of the ceremonial parades held at Duntroon. He also made a point of including Helen and me at most of the important functions at Government House. At that time the number of Ambassadors in Canberra was much fewer than today and we got to know most of them, and their outlook and modus operandi. The same applies to the academics of the A.N.U.

During my time at Duntroon I had my first real exposure to, and contacts with, the political world. Previously my only contacts had been with the various Ministers for Defence and Army -- but then as a staff officer supporting the C.G.S. In Canberra it was inevitable that I should meet the P.M. (Menzies) and his Cabinet Ministers quite frequently and also many of the backbenchers -- many of them now senior Ministers in the present government. I also met most of the senior members of the opposition and Public Servants who were heads of Departments. It was all very interesting and instructive and I learnt a great deal which was invaluable to me when I later became C.G.S. and subsequently Chairman C.O.S.C.

When the Defence and Service Departments were still located in Melbourne there was very little direct contact between the Chiefs of Staff and their Minister and with the Minister of Defence. This put the Service Secretaries and particularly the Defence Secretary, in a very powerful position vis-a-vis the Ministers. The former traveled frequently to Canberra to transact the business of their departments and of the Services with the Minister. The Service Secretaries and the Defence Secretary were thus in the position where they were required to present the recommendations of the Service Boards to the Ministers. This would inevitably entail some interpretation and explanation of the military viewpoint. Not a good system and one which placed the Secretaries in an invidious and influential position regarding military matters. This was a problem which I was determined to resolve and spent much effort on later when I became C.O.S. and later Chairman of the C.O.S. Committee. (See separate papers on Defence Reorganisation)

1960 - 1962

CHIEF - MILITARY PLANNING OFFICE, S.E.A.T.O. (Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation)

After Duntroon my next appointment was as Chief of the S.E.A.T.O. Military Planning office for two years as from July 1960. During my time as DMO & P and later as B.G.S. at AHQ, I had had a great deal to do with S.E.A.T.O. matters so I was on familiar ground when I took up this appointment. However, this time I would not be wearing an Australian hat but a S.E.A.T.O. hat (i.e. International).

By this time the S.E.A.T.O. member nations had decided that, if their collective efforts in pursuance of the Manila Treaty (S.E.A.T.O.) were to progress, they needed a HQ suitably located in the Treaty area. Bangkok was selected and the HQ consisted of a secretariat headed by a Secretary General to serve the Council and a Military Planning Office (MPO) to serve the Military Advisers' Group (representatives of Chiefs of Staff of Member Nations). The HQ was well established by July 1960 when I took up my position there. Prior to doing this I attended, as an observer, a Military Advisers Meeting which was held in Washington, D.C. in May 1960. This was very useful as I was able to meet each of the Military Advisers group for whom I would be working and also meet the senior National and S.E.A.T.O. (International) planners who were supporting the Military Advisers at their meeting.

From the family viewpoint this new posting was a considerable upheaval. Helen was to accompany me to Bangkok but Robert and John were at the stage of their education when they could not move with us. Robert therefore became a boarder at Canberra Grammar School and John remained at St Paul's College, Sydney University. Virginia accompanied us to Bangkok where we arrived at the end of June 1960, having travelled in a Dutch ship from Sydney to Singapore where we spent a few days shopping. We then transshipped to a smaller vessel for the journey from Singapore to Bangkok. We were very pleased -- we had chosen to arrive in Bangkok by sea. Bangkok is some 30 miles up river from the coast and sailing up the river gave us a good feel for the Thai atmosphere -- particularly in central Thailand where life centres on the rivers and canals which are the traditional transport routes.

We lived in the Erawan Hotel for about the first three weeks after arrival. After this we moved to a house in Bankapi which had been occupied by my predecessor -- a N.Z. officer who later became the N.Z. C.O.S. and subsequently C.D.S. (Lieut. General W. Thornton).

During this initial period we had the problem of Virginia's school. This was a small private school for English-speaking children -- but it was all so different in atmosphere and organisation from what V. was used to that she burst into tears every morning when Helen took her to school and refused to stay. So Helen had to take her back to the hotel again. This went on for about a week before V. eventually accepted her fate. She soon settled down and got to like the school and make friends. She stayed at that school until the end of 1961 and then went back, unaccompanied, by air to Canberra to be a boarder at Canberra Girls' Grammar School commencing 1st Term 1962 (we were due to return to Canberra in July 1962). Robert visited us during the long Christmas holidays 1960-61, 1961-62. During each of these periods the whole family, except John who was at Darwin, made a major excursion out of Bangkok. The first, during Christmas 1960-61, was to Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. The second was to Angkor Wat in Cambodia in 61-62. Both these journeys were by car over very poor roads. However, we did see quite a comprehensive cross-section of the very different types of terrain, people and living conditions which exist in the various parts of Thailand. The flat low central basin which is the rice bowl of the country -- the undulating hilly country ending in the mountains of North Thailand - the flat arid Rhvial plateau leading eastwards to Cambodia. We also used to make short day or weekend trips to places within a radius of about 100km from Bangkok. These included the more popular seaside resorts which we patronised as often as possible to escape the hot humid suffocating climate of Bangkok. For one of our "cool climate" vacations we travelled south from Bangkok to Northern Malaysia, spent a few days in Penang and then went up to the Cameron Highlands -- a welcome change of air and temperature for 10 days. On another occasion we spent some days in Hong Kong.

This is not the place to describe Thailand so it must suffice to write that it is a unique colourful and very interesting country. We would not have wished to miss our two years there but we were glad to leave and escape the rigours of the climate and other conditions of life in Bangkok.

In my S.E.A.T.O. work I got to know most of the leading personalities in the Thai government and particularly the top service people I knew the PM Thanom Kittikachorn (who went into exile in 1975 and later returned in 1977, became a monk and entered a monastery) -- a Colonel Kriangsak who in 1960 was Colonel in the S.E.A.T.O. office, is now a general and one of the "strong" men in Thai government. The Secretary-General of S.E.A.T.O. was Pote Sarasin who had previously been PM. He was one of the "establishment" and rich and influential. I worked very closely with him and any difficulties I had in dealing with the Thai government through "normal" channels could quickly be resolved through Pote Sarasin when he used his "connections" in the government.

We had the opportunity to meet King Phumiphol quite often. We had an informal channel to him also through my A.D.C. Colonel Lucky Thompson (an Australian who could speak Thai and also play the saxophone) who used to visit the palace informally and play in the King's jazz band -- the King was a keen musician and composer and one of his favourite hobbies and relaxations was to play an instrument in his own ad hoc band.

The monarchy in Thailand is a very important and influential establishment and the present king is very much respected by the population as a whole.

At this period of time S.E.A.T.O. carried out a necessary and worthwhile and popular function in relation to the unstable situation in S.E. Asia. The very brief outline of its organisation etc. which follows will help in understanding my role and activities.

The member nations of S.E.A.T.O. were Australia, France, Britain, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines. The top body of the organisation was the S.E.A.T.O. Council consisting of the Foreign Ministers of member nations. This Council met normally once annually. The ambassadors of each member nation located in Bangkok were called the Council Representatives and met weekly at S.E.A.T.O. HQ under arrangements made by the Secretary-General. As Chief of the M.P.O., I also attended these meetings in an observer/adviser/liaison capacity as the representative of the Military Advisers Group. The Council Representatives, in addition to dealing with routine and urgent business, also prepared papers on important policy and financial matters for consideration by the Council at their annual meeting. Paralleling the political/civil side of the S.E.A.T.O. organisation was the military side headed by the Military Advisers Group who reported collectively to their governments through the Council or separately through their Council member. The Military Advisers Group were always present at Council meetings and also met separately twice a year -- one of these meetings always being immediately prior to and in the same place as the annual Council meeting. I was present at all M.A.s meetings in fact I had to organise the meetings and present to the M.A.s the various planning papers which had been prepared in M.P.O.

Each M.A. had a representative in the M.P.O. who worked in a committee under my chairmanship to finalise M.P.O. papers before their presentation to the M.A.s.

Also in the M.P.O. and working under my direct control was an international planning staff consisting of officers from all three services - seconded from member nations. This staff did the research and prepared the first draft of papers and plans for consideration by the M.A.R.C. (Military Advisers Representatives Committee chaired by me). The first draft was a true planner's paper without any national slant or bias.

The final draft after it emerged from the M.A.R.C. took account of various National viewpoints and was then put on the agenda for the Military Advisers' semi-annual meeting. After a plan had been

approved by the Military Advisers, it then became a S.E.A.T.O.* military plan to deal with one of a variety of contingency situations which might arise in the Treaty area. Political guidance relating to the military plans was provided to the military planners at both the M.A.R.C. level and the M.A. level. The M.A.s made a periodic report to the S.E.A.T.O. Council regarding the progress of planning, and other M.P.O. activities. Before any S.E.A.T.O. plan could have been put into effect, it would have required the unanimous approval of all S.E.A.T.O. nations. In the event, no S.E.A.T.O. plan was ever put into effect. However, various member nations did take unilateral action in some situations - e.g. Laos and Vietnam - and although acting in pursuance of S.E.A.T.O., they were implementing National plans NOT S.E.A.T.O. plans.

As Chief M.P.O., I travelled widely, not only throughout the treaty area, but also to the various locations where the S.E.A.T.O. Council had their meetings. So I attended S.E.A.T.O. Council and M.A.s meetings not only in Bangkok, Manila, Singapore and Canberra, but also Honolulu, Washington, Wellington (N.Z.), Karachi (Pakistan). On one occasion in 1961 I headed a group of planners who went to Pakistan at the invitation of the Pakistan M.A. to study their contingency plans to meet alleged threats of "communist" aggression to their Northern and N.W. frontiers. This was quite a nostalgic visit for me. To be back in what was formerly part of the old India where I had served for eight years in the thirties as a junior officer, living in a military environment with little opportunity (and I must confess, desire) to know and understand very much about the social and political life of the civilian population. On this twenty years later visit as a mature, experienced, senior officer, I was able to obtain a more comprehensive view of the nation. In 1961 the Pakistan government was virtually under a military government because the military leaders under Ayub Khan had taken over power when the previous elected civilian government, which was inefficient and corrupt, had virtually collapsed. This is not the place to discuss that political situation in any detail. I merely observe that the country and the people needed a strong, efficient and just government which also took strong measures against corruption. (They had been used to this when the British ruled India!)

The above is some background to the situation prevailing at the time of our visit and it is not surprising that we were welcomed and very efficient arrangements were made for our visit to the various frontier regions -- most of which I had not seen when I served in India during the thirties. We did not, of course, visit the frontiers with India nor Kashmir. The dispute between India and Pakistan did not come within the terms of the S.E.A.T.O. treaty which was limited to Communist aggression against the treaty area. As S.E.A.T.O. planners, we could therefore not look at that aspect of Pakistan's defence problems. Although it was never said openly, we all knew that Pakistan's main reason for being in S.E.A.T.O. was to strengthen her position vis-a-vis India. This was the background for the invitation for S.E.A.T.O. planners to visit Pakistan.

Nevertheless, our visit was a useful one and broadened our experience and professional knowledge. We gained a favourable impression of the standard of training of the Pakistan Army although much of its weapons and equipment was old and obsolescent.

Some of the highlights of our visit were: A drive up the Khyber Pass to the frontiers with Afghanistan. A flight into a remote frontier garrison north of Peshawar which was manned by a complete brigade group in a perimeter camp with strong defences. This was an area which had never been completely controlled, even under the British Raj. Another rather hazardous flight up a narrow valley north of into the heart of the Himalayas to visit a garrison guarding the approach into Pakistan from a northern pass over the Himalayas. As the aircraft flew northward, the valley became narrower and narrower until it seemed that our wing-tips would touch the mountain slopes on each side. We could see the mountain

tops - including Nanga Parbat towering thousands of feet above us. Eventually we landed on the floor of the valley through which ran a fast narrow river (full of trout!). The total width of the flat ground in the valley would not have exceeded 400 yds at its widest. We slept there overnight. Late in the afternoon we witnessed a game of polo as it was originally played in Asia before the Europeans went to India. The polo field was about 200 yds long and 50 yds wide and completely enclosed by a rough stone wall 6 feet high. Although there were four players in each of the opposing sides, the game bore no resemblance to modern polo but was more like a hand to hand fight between opposing cavalry patrols. There were no rules and the ball was always in play because the wall kept it in the field. The locals asserted that modern polo originated from this valley but this is a dubious claim because there is stronger evidence to support the view that the game originated in Persia.

One amusing and interesting occurrence to me in Pakistan is worth recording as a final anecdote concerning the visit. On arrival we were each allotted a "bearer" as a personal servant. (A bearer is a personal man-servant who looks after all his master's personal needs. In the days of the British Raj every officer had a bearer who accompanied him everywhere and looked after him). The bearer allocated to me was a good one and had, in the past, served many British masters. He knew a limited amount of English. He had no idea that I had lived in India previously and used to be able to speak Urdu fluently. (I had to pass the Indian Army Higher Standard Urdu exam before being eligible to serve with Indian Mountain Artillery). However, in the twenty years which had elapsed, since I left India in 1939, I had forgotten how to speak Urdu but could understand the gist of what was being said around me. So occasionally I heard my bearer talking to other bearers and his friends on the verandah outside my room. They used to discuss the group of visiting "Sahibs" in my party. After about 4 or 5 days I woke up one morning when my bearer brought me an early morning cup of tea and, without thinking, started to talk to him in fluent Urdu. I will never forget the look on his face -- surprise then dismay when he realised that I must have heard and understood what he had been saying about my party to his friends. However, I soon managed to convince him I was not offended by anything he had said, and soon I had him laughing about it. Subsequently we had a good friendly relationship -- I gained prestige, and so did he amongst his fellows because he was able to boast about having an Urdu-speaking master who was in India in the "good old days" of the British Raj! I was just as surprised as he was at hearing myself speak Urdu. The human brain is like a computer -- it stores up the information but you can't retrieve it unless you programme it correctly and turn on the appropriate switches!

I have always regarded Bangkok as the strategic heartland of S.E. Asia and very much hope it can retain its independence. Whilst I was in Bangkok the "Domino" theory was considered valid. (I still [1977] consider it valid but the reasons for this have changed because of the changed situation which has developed in S.E. Asia in recent years). Anyway, in the 1960-1962 period Bangkok was a very interesting politico-military centre, not only for the members of the S.E.A.T.O. nations, but for other pro-S.E.A.T.O. countries like Taiwan, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and from further afield, Korea and Japan. (Also I have no doubt that both Communist China and Russia had their agents operating there). Consequently, the representatives were always to be seen in most diplomatic, social and military gatherings which were not intended to be exclusively S.E.A.T.O. There were also many visitors and missions from these countries. All trying to exert influence and glean information.

A few months before my two year appointment in Bangkok concluded, I was notified that my next appointment would be Chief of the General Staff. So I then resolved that after handing over to my successor, I would pay a visit to Laos and Vietnam before returning to Australia. As Chief S.E.A.T.O. planner, I was forbidden to visit these countries -- for political reasons, it was considered such a visit would be misconstrued and used wrongly by both friends and enemies. This was probably correct.

However, what could not be done as a planner responsible to S.E.A.T.O. nations collectively was, in fact, both necessary and desirable as an Australian officer who had ceased to be Chief of S.E.A.T.O. M.P.O. and was now Australian C.G.S. designate. Accordingly, I sought and received approval from Australia for the visits to Laos and Vietnam.

I arranged my visit to Laos through the Australian Ambassador in Vientiane and the details were worked out by the Military Attaché. In Vientiane arrangements were made for me to meet the Head of Government - a General Phoumi - and other military leaders (at this time, 1962, the right wing factions were in power). After discussions and briefings and visits to various military establishments, we flew down the Mekong valley to the border with Laos; landing and spending some time at all places of strategic and other interest and meeting and talking to local leaders and commanders.

A few days after my visit to Laos, I flew to Saigon where the procedure was much the same. The President at this time was Diem. Accompanied by the Australian Ambassador (Anderson), I had an incredible three hour interview with Diem which consisted mainly of a monologue in French by the President, giving his views on the situation in Vietnam and the strategy which should be pursued to defeat V.C. (and North Vietnam) and the additional resources -- troops, aircraft, weapons, equipment, infrastructure etc. needed to make his plans work. The interview was twice as long as it needed to be because of the need for an interpreter to translate what he had said into English for my benefit.

This was not really necessary because when Diem had visited Duntroon he had spoken to me in quite fluent English. However, Diem was a Mandarin of the old school in which French was the official language. (His attitude was the same as General de Lattre at Singapore some years earlier). I suspect that the monologue was one which he had delivered many times before to VIP's who visited Vietnam. It was only in the last few minutes we had any two-way discussion during which he expressed appreciation for the small Australian Army Training Team which had arrived in Vietnam a short period before. He was obviously hoping that Australia would provide a great deal more assistance in the future. It was obvious later that he gave instructions to his minister of Defence and the Chief of Staff of the Army that I was to be given maximum assistance and permitted to visit any place in Vietnam I wished. So, after the usual calls, discussions and briefings in Saigon, I set out on a 10-day tour mainly by air, accompanied by the Military Attaché (Col. Hoptono). I went to most of the provincial capitals and some villages and key military areas met province chiefs, mayors, and most of the corps and divisional commanders. The latter I was to meet many times again during my frequent visits to Vietnam. Included in the places I visited were -- Nha Trang, Cam Ran Bay, Qui Nhon, Quang Nhi, Danang, Hue, Quan Tri, Kantum, Pleeker, Ban Me Thuo and Tay Niu -- and several places in the Delta in the South. In this way I gained a comprehensive overall view of the situation, the leaders, the terrain and the communication system and infrastructure generally.

All this plus the contacts I made were to be invaluable to me during the next eight years. The two key Americans in Vietnam at this time were the Ambassador and the Commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Group, General Harkins. I called on and had discussions with both of these men and was well received.

On conclusion of this visit to Vietnam I returned to Bangkok where Helen had waited for me. We then returned to Canberra together via Singapore.

1962

CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

The Defence and Service Departments had moved to Canberra in 1959, so it was Canberra to which I returned from Bangkok in July 1962. I was allotted a government house in Hutt Street at Yarralumla as a temporary measure. The house, then occupied by the then C.G.S. (Pollard) would not be available until January 1963 when Pollard would retire and I would take over. As the two houses were identical in design and shape, I would, in January 1963 have the choice of staying where I was or moving to the C.G.S. house in Melbourne Avenue, Forrest. I eventually chose the Melbourne Avenue house because it was a more suitable and convenient location -- certainly much closer to the Grammar Schools which Robert and Virginia were still attending.

After settling the family into the Hutt Street house and a period of leave, I commenced planning in detail for a visit, which had already been approved, to U.S.A., U.K. and Europe. The purpose of this visit was to visit the Chief of Staff of the Army in each country and a variety of their military establishments and units and study developments in organisation, training, weapons, equipment and tactics. The visit to Europe would be to British Army Component of the N.A.T.O. Forces and observe land warfare tactics and techniques under European conditions as compared with those in Asia.

In U.S.A. I was very well received -- in fact, the Chief of Staff U.S. Army (General Decker) received me with full military honours outside the Pentagon. After discussions with General Decker, and a variety of briefings in the Pentagon on the various subjects in which I was interested, I then set out on a three week tour of selected military establishments and units. The distances involved were very considerable and so I had been allotted a VIP plane (a Convair) for the whole of the tour very comfortable and convenient. Travelling with me was a U.S. Colonel who had been allotted to me as "escort officer" to smooth the way and resolve any local difficulties. The Australian Military Attaché from our Embassy also accompanied me.

At every base we visited, I had the usual "honours" treatment, guns and all. All the various Commanders I visited obviously went out of their way to tell me everything and show me everything. Quite clearly, the Chief of Staff of the Army had sent round the message! The last U.S. military establishment I visited on this tour was the Military Academy at West Point. I had in fact been there before when I was with the Military Mission in Washington in 1943. On this occasion the Superintendent (Commandant) was General W.C. Westmoreland whom I was to meet many times later in Vietnam and knew well.

The tour concluded with a "rest period" in New York before the next leg of my trip. The rest period was for two days and I was the guest of the U.S. Army at a very good hotel and two Broadway shows!

From New York I flew to Ottawa for a three day visit to Ottawa and discussions at Canadian Army HQ. I then flew from Ottawa to London for the British visit. At this time the British C.G.S. was Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull whom I had first met at I.D.C. in 1952 and later when he was C-in-C, Singapore. Hull had arranged for me to visit the C.N.S. and C.A.S. and also to call on the Chief of Defence Staff -- Lord Louis Mountbatten. After a few days in U.K. -- during which I had briefings and visits to selected Army establishments and units - I then flew across to Germany to visit the British Army Component of the N.A.T.O. forces. I had visited these previously on an I.D.C. tour in 1952. These forces were then called the British Army of Occupation. However, there was more than a change of name. They were now very welcome to the Germans; also it was a different Germany. In those ten years there had been a remarkable recovery in the economy and the outlook of the Germans. My tour round the various HQ and units was comprehensive and well arranged so I had a good look at their organisation, equipment and training etc. Also met quite a few old friends and acquaintances whom I had known in World War II and Korea.

From Germany I returned to Canberra via Singapore. After my return I had a leisurely few months bringing myself up to date on developments in the Australian Army during the previous two years.

(Malaysia Section)

1963

On January 13, 1963 when I took over as C.G.S. -- then aged 53 I commenced what were to be the most challenging, strenuous and interesting years of my life.

On the domestic front we decided to move from Hutt Street, Yarralumla to our present house in Melbourne Avenue. The house was one of twenty so-called "special" houses built to accommodate generals etc. when the move of the Defence and Service Departments took place in 1959. It was quite inadequate for a service chief. So I decided that, as the government would not make the necessary additions, I would purchase the house from the government and have the additions made at my own expense. Accordingly, I added two bedrooms, an annex for guests and extended the dining room by six feet. Later, I extended the terrace by three feet and built a pergola over it. A carport was also added to the garage to house a second car.

At this time (1963) son John had completed his University course and had gained a Master's degree in Engineering Science. He then went to Moresby in New Guinea in the hope of gaining useful practical experience. Robert and Virginia were still teenagers and in their last years at the Grammar Schools and so were living at home.

The decision to purchase and enlarge the house proved to be successful and potentially profitable. In those days purchasers of government houses in Canberra had very favourable terms 45 years to pay off the cost of the house at very low interest rate (4.1%). In the event, my monthly payments were very little more than I would have been paying as rent. However, I would now have to pay the cost of maintenance and rates myself.

Now, some fifteen years later, in 1977, the value of the house and particularly the land, is many times more than the price at which I purchased it from the government. It is, of course, my most valuable investment -- the increased capital value keeps pace with inflation but I only have to repay the 1963 value at the low interest rate. If I were to sell this house, I would have to pay at least twice as much rent as I am paying now and, in addition, I would have to pay tax on dividends I received from investing the money received from sale of the house!

In my new job C.S.C.G.S. I was now at the interface between the service and the government. I was directly responsible to the Minister for the Army, Mr John Cramer -- one of the "old guard" Liberal politicians, so I saw a great deal of him. As all major policy and budgetary matters were controlled by the Minister of Defence (Athol Townley), I used to see him frequently. On occasions when matters of major Defence or Service importance were discussed in Cabinet, the Service chiefs were required to be in attendance. So in this way I saw a great deal of the Prime Minister (Robert Menzies) and his senior ministers.

On the social and diplomatic front, a Chief of Staff and his wife were always on the invitation list for dinners, receptions, cocktail parties etc., whether it was a Government House function, an official government function or an Embassy function.

I soon made it a rule to accept only the most important invitations and even then escaped as soon as I

could. A hectic social life was incompatible with a busy working day! Fortunately my period as Commandant at Duntroon had given me some experience on the Canberra social front so I did not experience too much shock.

As background to my period as C.G.S. it should be remembered that in 1963 the situation in Asia was very unsettled. In S.E. Asia there were struggles going on in practically every country -- Burma was still in a state of flux -- in Laos there was fighting between the right wing government and the Pathet Lao -- in S. Vietnam the government was endeavouring to cope with the increasing threat of the Viet Cong -- in the Philippines the Huk rebellion had just been brought under control but there were many remaining problems -- Thailand was the most stable country of all, but even there Communist subversion was becoming a problem and there was insurgency on her northern borders -- Cambodia under Prince Sihanouk, was to external viewers, apparently calm but in fact there were problems with the Communist bands which were then building up their strength and biding their time to gain control of the country. Their chance came at the end of the Vietnam war and they quickly seized power. In Malaysia the emergency against the Communist Terrorists was still going on. To make matters worse, President Soekarno of Indonesia commenced his period of "confrontation" of Malaysia. The impact of this was felt more directly in Borneo than in Malaya and Singapore and caused diversion to there of forces and resources which were still needed to deal with the emergency in Malaya.

Against this background, the Australian government took a realistic look at the strength and capabilities of the Australian Defence Forces which had been kept on a low budget during the previous decade. The result was a considerably increased Defence budget for a re-equipment programme and to build up the strength of the forces generally and particularly the Army which was well below its authorised strength.

It should be understood that, particularly in peacetime, it takes a long time to translate a government decision into better equipment and increased forces. Men have to be recruited and trained and most men will not enlist in peacetime unless pay and conditions of service are at least equivalent to those in civil life. Weapons and equipment have to be selected and ordered and there is a minimum of 1 or 2 years between placing an order and receiving deliveries. In the case of ships and aircraft, the time lag is even longer -- a naval ship could take five years to build even if an existing design was used. So it was not surprising that there was no quick and dramatic increase in our defence capability.

One of the first problems I had to contend with was the organisation of the field force. The new "Pentropic" organisation had been introduced in 1961 and most units had been reorganised on new establishments and scales of weapons and transport etc. Action was in hand to write new training and other publications.

I had not been in favour of the "Pentropic" organisation when it was first proposed in the late 1960s, and had told the then C.G.S. (Lt. Gen. Sir Ragner Garrett) of my views, a few months before I relinquished command at R.M.C. Duntroon and was posted to Bangkok as Chief S.E.A.T.O. M.P.O.

It was while I was outside Australia that a firm decision was made to adopt the Pentropic organisation and it was a fait accompli by the time I took over as C.G.S. from Lt. Gen. Sir Reg. Pollard. There had always been an anti "Pentropic" school of critics within the army but by January 1963 there were also many outside critics.

Eventually criticism and doubts began to be expressed in political and government circles, and in the press.

It was ironic that, as a former opponent of the "Pentropic" organisation, it fell to my lot to preside over

the consolidation of the new organisation. I had given the matter a great deal of thought and study and in October 1962 visited and taken a long hard look at the first full strength full scale battle group exercise in the field. (Exercise "Nut Cracker") What I saw and learnt on that occasion convinced me that the Pentropic organisation would not be suitable for the Australian Army.

There were also some modifications and changes required to the previous organisation (Tropical Warfare - TW) which the Pentropic organisation had superseded. So, to cut a long story short, I decided that the best organisation would be to revert to a modified T.W. organisation which would include some of the good features of the "Pentropic", plus some other changes. In this way we would have the best of both organisations and our organisation would be compatible with those of closest Allies, i.e. U.K., U.S.A., N.Z. This was essential in my view because the lack of compatibility of the Pentropic organisation had been one of its major defects.

As professional head of the army it was my duty to advise the government on any matter of major importance to the army; and the organisation of the field force was, of course, a major policy matter. So it was that I decided to recommend strongly to the government that we should abandon the Pentropic concept in favour of a revised "Tropical Warfare" establishment. My recommendation included an outline of the reorganised division. As my basic recommendation coincided with the government's own predilection, I received a very quick approval which left me free to work out the details. This was done under my direction by Brigadier K. Mackay (later Maj. Gen.) who did an excellent job in a remarkably short time.

(Note: For further details on this matter see pp. 3-6 of "Vietnam Notes" in separate folder)

In 1963 the manpower problem confronting the C.G.S. was not as capable of quick resolution as was the organisational problem. The first National Service scheme had been terminated about 1959 and Citizen Military Force (C.M.F.) units were well over strength and there were major problems in providing regular cadres for C.M.F. units and for their equipment and buildings for training depots. At the same time we were trying to build up the ARA field force for which the same resources were required.

We had to continue to maintain our commitment in Malaysia and P.N.G., and also to maintain the training team in Vietnam which became an increasingly difficult task. This team was composed of 150 specially selected officers, Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s -- all these experienced men were the very type we desperately needed in other parts of the army for C.M.F. cadres, for an expanding field force and for army schools and, later, for training the recruits who were coming out of the 2nd National Service scheme, which commenced in 1964(5?).

In 1963 the total regular army strength of 22,000 was well below the approved 25,000 establishment and there was no prospect of reaching even this target, though some minor improvements to pay and conditions of service were tardily and grudgingly made. The government had already approved an increased target strength and, against an unsettled and deteriorating situation in S.E. Asia, it was clear that other measures would have to be taken to build up the strength more rapidly. So towards the end of 1964 the government decided to introduce the 2nd National Service (N.S.) scheme -- but this would be very different from the first which merely trained men and posted them to C.M.F. units who were not available for overseas service. The second scheme was designed to build up the regular army for overseas service if and when required. It would also maintain the C.M.F. at the required strength.

From a purely military viewpoint, this was a very effective scheme for the purpose intended. It should be noted that the first commitment of Australian troops to Vietnam was not decided upon until early in

1965 and this was composed entirely of regular army soldiers who were voluntarily enlisted. It would be a further year before any National Servicemen would be available for overseas service. Preparations to introduce this scheme meant a greatly increased load on an overstretched regular army new camp sites had to be selected and buildings erected, instructors and staffs had to be culled out of all units of the army. It was a very hectic time for everyone. Eventually all was ready for the first intake in March/April 1965. To bring these men to the required standard of training for operational service would require three months basic training plus a further three to six months specialist training.

We saw to it that this scheme would avoid the defects of the first scheme and would be flexible, and a model for any future schemes requiring much larger intakes such as would be required on mobilisation. Moreover, it would create a reserve. I was very pleased with the results -- individually and collectively, of this scheme. We had groups of young men who were drawn from all sections of the community. They were fine young men and by the time they were posted to their units, they were indistinguishable from the Regular Army men. Even if this had not been so, it would have happened very quickly because it was army policy to make it so by every means possible. These men were desperately needed by the Army and were welcomed from the moment they joined their units as full "members" of the "club". Eventually about one-third of the strength of the Field Force was provided by men who had come through the N.S. scheme. The attitude of the regular Army to these men is best summed up by the reply a Commanding Officer in Vietnam gave to a newspaper reporter who asked which were the N.S. personnel in his battalion. The Colonel stared at him and then, after a brief pause, said "All the men in my battalion are good soldiers and I am proud of them and treat them all in exactly the same way."

It is true to say that most career officers and N.C.O.s would not necessarily know whether a soldier who joined his section or platoon in the field was originally an ARA or a N.S. enlistee. He did not need to know. Also in a great many cases N.S. men were of much better quality than the normal ARA recruit in terms of intelligence, physique and education.

Except for a very tiny percentage, I would say these N.S. men rendered excellent service. Even those who had been opposed to conscription before being called up, adopted a very commendable and practical philosophy -- as much as to say "Now I'm in, although I don't like it, it will be best if I do the job I've been called up for as well as I can." I made it my business to question unofficially and informally any young men I encountered after they had completed their service and had been placed on the reserve. These young men can be grouped into two main categories. The first category were those who had believed that the onus was on the government to call them up if additional men were required, rather than place the responsibility on them for choosing to interrupt their careers and way of life and make other sacrifices. The first category were, in fact, glad to be called up -- they would have been volunteers in a time of declared war and mobilisation. They quickly adapted to military life and gained valuable experience.

The second category were those, referred to earlier, who were opposed to conscription and who accepted their call up philosophically and also did a good job but were very glad to be discharged. When discussing their military life with me, they would invariably end up by saying it was a wonderful experience from which they had gained a great deal and they were glad they had not missed it!

The above pages are not intended to be a comprehensive examination of, and to give all my thoughts and comments on, the 2nd N.S. Scheme. This is not the place. So I end these comments by saying that I believe a government's first duty is to ensure the security and safety of the nation. To do this the government must have a defence policy and strategy which relates not only to the short term predictable

future but also into the long term future. Having decided on its policy and strategy (and hopefully we may some day have a bipartisan Defence policy), the government of the day must take whatever steps are necessary to implement its policy and strategy in relation to short term without losing sight of longer term considerations. In the early sixties one of the steps necessary for the implementation of the government's policy and strategy was the 2nd N.S. Scheme, because without it we would not have had a regular army field force strong enough to deploy and maintain our strategic commitments. Although this 2nd N.S. Scheme was suspended early in 1974, I have no doubt that the scheme would be quickly reintroduced by the government of the day, whether Labour or Liberal, should a situation occur in the future which requires our Defence Forces to be at a high state of readiness and the necessary manpower cannot be obtained by voluntary enlistment.

(Note: At the present time, 1977, I notice that the Labour Party policy is that in the event of a "declared" war, conscription would be introduced if necessary. To be noted is that an aggressor is always well prepared before he makes his "declaration").

About the end of 1963 Francis was replaced by Dr Jim Forbes as Army Minister -- he was a Duntroon graduate who, after World War II, resigned from the army, took a Ph.D., and eventually became a lecturer in Political Science at Adelaide University. From there he entered politics. We got on well; because of his army background he understood the army ethos. He later became Minister for Education and was replaced as Army Minister by Malcolm Fraser -- the present (1977) P.M. At that time I did not realise that I was working with a future P.M. He was young, inexperienced and, rightly, unsure of himself, but obviously ambitious and keen to make his mark and at the same time avoid making errors. During his first few weeks I prevented him from making a very serious error in the case of Gunner O'Brien in Vietnam. (That is a long story to be told separately.) On the whole, we got on well together. After Athol Townley died, he was succeeded by Senator Paltridge as Defence Minister. On the whole, I got on well with these two during my period as C.G.S.

I also saw a great deal of Harold Holt who succeeded Menzies as P.M. Shortly after becoming P.M., Holt decided upon a tour of visits to our forces then in S.E. Asia and I was required to accompany him throughout and virtually hold his hand because he was quite unfamiliar with military matters and had never been to S.E. Asia. It was all an eye opener to him and very educational and I am sure that it was of great value to him later when it came to making political decisions on the military matters which were referred to Cabinet. I saw to it that he saw at first hand how the Navy, Army and Air Force carried out their jobs under combat conditions, and the arduous duties they carried out and had to live in field under primitive and extremely uncomfortable conditions. Holt stood up to this trip very well and followed advice as to what he should do in various circumstances. He coped well with some unexpected situations. So the tour was a great success -- the troops were glad to see him and he enjoyed himself once he became acclimatised to the heat and other conditions. I have many stories about this trip which will be related separately. Two I will mention briefly here before leaving the subject of Holt. When Holt started on the trip he was somewhat overweight. Consequently, in the tropics he sweated profusely all over his body but particularly from the head and neck. This is a problem well known to the Army which issues sweat cloths to the soldiers which they wear round their necks. The cloths are made of loosely knitted absorbent cotton dyed khaki. I soon introduced these to Harold and thenceforward he refused to be parted from his neckcloth -- whether he was visiting troops or dressed in civilian clothing, talking to local politicians. I would say Harold lost at least 7 lbs on that tour. Because of his obsession with the sweat cloth, he forgot to take his speech notes with him from the helicopter when he went to address the troops on Anzac Day at Bien Hoa near Saigon.

The other story concerns his visit to the Australian field artillery battery at Bien Hoa. The battery commander was a very impressive officer who obviously knew his job. He made such a good impression on Holt that the latter kept on telling me what a very fine officer he was. I agreed with him but did not have the heart to tell him that this was the officer who Fraser, supported by Holt, wished to condemn in the case of Gunner O'Brien before the result of the Court of Enquiry into this matter had been held.

During my time as C.G.S. I travelled widely throughout Australia and T.P.N.G. My aim was to see at first hand what was going on in every part of the army and to gauge for myself the state of efficiency and morale and standard of training of every unit I visited.

I wanted also to see the standard of accommodation etc. for the troops. I also wanted to talk directly to the officers and men; learn about their problems, and also obtain their views on a variety of army matters.

In peacetime the army is widely dispersed throughout Australia and because of the enormous distances involved, these visits were a time-consuming, strenuous and tiring business, but well worth while. Moreover, the visits were welcomed by the troops. It is a popular misconception that the troops dislike all so-called "brass hats". If they did dislike "brass hats" they would dislike them even more if the "brass hats" did not visit them occasionally. It gives the troops confidence and encouragement to feel that the head of Army personally knows something about their unit and is prepared to share their problems, discomforts and, in an operational situation, dangers.

I have found this to be so throughout my service. On the other hand, once the "brass hat" has made his appearance, particularly in a dangerous situation, they then become concerned for his safety and try to prevent him becoming unduly exposed to danger and in the end are relieved when he leaves their sector.

(Examples of this in Syria, T.P.N.G. and Korea will be described separately.)

During the course of various inspection visits in the various states, I always made a point of calling on the State Governors, Premiers and other State authorities. They expected these calls and welcomed them. It gave them the opportunity to expound their views on Defence matters generally and in particular on Army matters within their states -- particularly if there were problems. The Governor of W.A. at this time was Maj. Gen. Sir Joseph Kendrew, a retired British Army officer, who had served alongside me in Korea in command of the 29th Brit. 1 Brigade at the time I was commanding the 28th Commonwealth Brigade. We were good friends and we had much to talk about. He always insisted on my staying at Government House. My visits to T.P.N.G. (Territory of Papua and New Guinea) were full of interest and value and I managed to visit every important centre including, of course, the areas where I had served in World War II. I was amazed to see the developments there (in 1965) since the end of W.W. II. The progress, and efficiency, of the Pacific Islands Regiment was particularly pleasing. This regiment was the basis on which the present (1977) N.G. Defence Force has been established. My visits to T.P.N.G. were greatly facilitated by the R.A.A.F. who always made a VIP plane available for me throughout. I was thus able to obtain the maximum coverage in the minimum time.

I was rarely able to take Helen with me on my visits in Australia, but in T.P.N.G. with a R.A.A.F. VIP aircraft at my disposal, I managed to take her with me on one of my visits.

One of the highlights was a visit to Vanimo on the north coast of New Guinea where we had a company outpost a few miles from the W. Irian border. This was a "men only" outpost and wives and families remained at the battalion base at Wewak for the three months the company was away. Helen persuaded

me to take the wives with us on the VIP aircraft on the day we visited Vanimo. This was a great success and very much welcomed by all. From the air the Army outpost at Vanimo looks like a tropical holiday paradise, unspoilt, beautiful beaches and sparkling blue seas!

in November 1964 the C-in-C of the Pakistan Army invited me to visit Pakistan and see the main army installations and units etc. in both West Pakistan and the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The itinerary of this visit was so arranged as to include many of the important places, units and installations which were not included during my visit in 1962 when I was C.M.P.O. S.E.A.T.O.

Arriving at Karachi, I was met by Col. Humphry Bates, an officer I already knew very well, who was then Military Attaché to the Australian High Commissioner at Pakistan. Bates accompanied me throughout this tour -- he was useful to me and it was a great opportunity for him to be with me on such a comprehensive tour during which we were made very welcome and all doors were opened and information made available which would not have been given to Bates in the ordinary course.

Before leaving Karachi, I paid a nostalgic visit to Manora Island adjacent to the port of Karachi. It was at Manora that Helen and I established our first home in tents in January 1939. In 1964 it was a Naval HQ. Some other naval installations were also there.

We then flew to Rawalpindi in the Punjab to pay my call on the C in C of the Pakistan Army. We exchanged gifts and had a long discussion. That night the C in C gave a dinner in my honour in AHQ Mess. The format of the dinner remained identical with that used under the British Raj! Next day I visited a few army installations in the vicinity of Rawalpindi and also to the new capital of Pakistan - Islamabad -- then being constructed in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains about 20 miles from Rawalpindi.

The following day I paid a call on the President of Pakistan Ayub Khan, who welcomed me warmly. We had a discussion which lasted more than two hours -- a discussion during which he did most of the talking! He talked about the problem of East Pakistan, relations with India and the long-standing dispute over Kashmir. Pakistan's internal political and economic problems were very much in his mind. I was intensely interested in his idea that Pakistan (and many other countries which had become independent since World War II) need a system of democracy different to the Westminster model. He explained that in a country, where most of the population were poor and almost illiterate and engaged in agricultural pursuits as small farmers or tenants, a different system of electing members to parliament was essential. For most of the population the village was the centre of their life. They were more interested in electing a man from their village, whom they trusted and respected, than in a particular party. His idea was that the elected representatives of all the villages in an electorate should meet and select from one of their number the man who would represent the electorate in Parliament.

Next, I visited the 1st Armoured Division at Kharian. This was in a new cantonment strategically located with reference to the border of India. In the centre of the cantonment was a large rectangular grassed field about 1000 yards x 500 yards which was intended to serve as an assembly, parade and sports area. Div HQ and the HQs of all the brigades and units were located on the road which ran around the open space. At right angles to this road, smaller roads ran to the barracks etc. of each unit. It was a very efficient lay-out -- it facilitated rapid communications throughout the division. Moreover, it enabled all commanders from the div comd down to exercise rapid supervision. This armoured division was, of course, intended to be the main striking force in case of war with India. (In fact, it was so used in the war which occurred in I found the morale and standard of training of the army in West Pakistan very impressive. Their equipment, however, was very old and obsolete. Moreover, the army was very

overextended. A considerable force was deployed on the Kashmir front, and also large garrisons were necessarily maintained at various strategic places on the northern and North Western Frontiers. In addition, there was a comparatively large garrison force in East Pakistan where I flew to from W. Pakistan on the final stop of this tour.

At Dacca, the capital, I was very pleased to meet again my friend, Rear Admiral Ahsan, who had been my deputy when I was C.M.P.O. of S.E.A.T.O. He also was appointed to take my place as C.M.P.O. when I completed my appointment with S.E.A.T.O. At this time he was seconded to the civil government as Controller of Waterways and Canals (or some such title). This was a very important job in E. Pakistan which is mainly a flat plain, subject to frequent flooding, and where the rivers and canals provide the main means of transport, there being very few roads. The population of E. Pakistan are, of course, Bengalis -- the province was called E. Bengal under the British Raj. The E. Bengalis were converted to the Moslem faith many centuries ago and for this reason were incorporated in the state of Pakistan at the time of independence and partition. They are, however, an entirely different race -- smaller in stature than the population of W. Pakistan and have a different social and cultural background. It was not surprising that some years later E. Pakistan, with the aid of India, sought and gained independence.

From Dacca I returned to Canberra after an absence of a little over two weeks. I had found this to be the maximum period I could afford to stay away from my office without adverse effect. I gained a good knowledge of Pakistan and its Defence problems and forces and it was a pleasant nostalgic visit. However, the purpose of the visit was essentially political and arranged initially through the Department of Foreign Affairs who had urged acceptance of the invitation, as a goodwill gesture, which would facilitate the continuance of good relations between the two countries.

Visit to Sabah (N. Borneo)

During the first half of 1964 Soekarno's confrontation had resulted in an increased threat to SABAH and Sarawak. There were infiltration raids from the Indonesian side of the border and, in addition, dissident groups within Sabah and Sarawak were being supplied with arms and equipment etc. by the Indonesians. This meant that these states had to be reinforced by British and other Commonwealth troops from mainland Malaysia. Insofar as Australian troops were concerned, we eventually had an infantry battalion and an SAS company deployed in the frontier area of Sarawak in addition to a squadron of engineers which had been sent to Sabah in June 1964. Before this squadron was sent from Australia, I was sent by the government to Sabah to investigate the necessity for this extra contribution and to examine the extent of the task involved and other aspects of its employment.

It should be understood Sabah is a very undeveloped state and, except adjacent to the coast, roads are non-existent. The border with Indonesia is in the jungle, some 80 to 100 miles from the coast. The only method of keeping our troops maintained in the border areas was by helicopter. A very expensive method and helicopters were scarce and rapidly wearing out.

Solution -- build a road some 80 miles toward the border area and at the road-head establish a helicopter base. All supplies and reinforcements etc. would then go by truck to the helicopter base which would be only about 15 minutes helicopter flying from the furthest patrol post.

Speed in construction of the road was essential which meant that it initially could only be an all-weather track suitable for jeeps and trailers in wet weather. However, in dry weather light trucks could also use it on a one way traffic basis. Although the road had been proposed primarily to meet an operational

requirement, it would go through areas which were eminently suitable for agricultural development after hostilities had ceased. This had been a future development project for the government of Sabah when funds could be made available. To the Australian government the road proposal had double appeal -- a high priority operational project and a civil aid project. When I arrived in Sabah I was met by the engineer officer who had been sent ahead to study the technical feasibility and logistics of the problem. He was very concerned because the officials of the Sabah government, who had been sent to assist in relations with the local authorities and people, had told him that the government were expecting him to build a two lane bitumen all weather road capable of 3 ton trucks at speeds up to 50 kph. (This appeared to be the specification laid down by the Sabah government for future standard roads).

I told him that was not the case and we went off on a reconnoiter of the proposed route of the road. When we returned we found the Chief Minister of Sabah (Stevens) waiting for us. He expressed surprise that we intended only making a jeep road and said he had understood a standard road would be built and suggested that I recommend accordingly to my government.

I told him firmly and politely that it would have to be a jeep road or nothing from a military point of view because of the time factor. He accepted this, well knowing he could not make a case for a standard road purely as a civil aid project. I then told him of the assistance (free of charge) which we wanted in the way of local labour, supplies and resources in order to build the road. He was most reluctant to agree to this. So I then had to point out that we were there to assist in defending his state and we were not charging the state for our services. He agreed with this but was still somewhat reluctant so, as a final persuader, I said that if he could agree to the assistance I requested, I would vary the route of the road to an alignment which would enable the road to be widened at a later date. He then readily agreed to my requests.

In fact, I did not need to vary the route because we had already selected the best alignment and gradients for future development of the road!

We were both happy -- I am sure that from the outset he was happy to have even only a jeep road and thought he had secured a point and saved face. For my part, I was glad to obtain free of charge the civil assistance I required. We parted the best of friends. I was to meet him again later and enjoy good relations with him when he came to Canberra as High Commissioner for Malaysia. (In 1975 I was very sad to hear that he had been killed in an aircraft accident in Sabah.)

On return to Canberra I reported to the government that the jeep road should be built and the project was put in hand and the jeep road was built.

When I told the above story to the then Secretary of the Department of Defence (Hicks), he laughed and said "You have saved the government at least six million pounds." He had a good sense of humour!

By the beginning of 1965 progress with the expansion of the army and provision of new equipment was well under way. However, particular reference needs to be made of the question of air support for the army by the R.A.A.F. Primarily because of lack of funds, the R.A.A.F. had concentrated their main effort on the provision of fighters and bombers and neglected the requirements of the army for close support aircraft and for air transport for lifting troops and supplies, both strategically and tactically. In addition to fixed wing transport aircraft, medium and utility helicopters were required. After much discussion and negotiation between the services, agreement was reached and government approval obtained to purchase Hercules transport aircraft and Canberra aircraft. These were available in 1965. However, provision of Chinook helicopters, although approved in principle, did not eventuate until the

1970s! We were luckier with the Iroquois utility helicopter which began to become available in increasing quantities from the end of 1965 onwards.

Then there was the question of light aircraft and helicopters to be operated by the army for its own battlefield use and liaison. The R.A.A.F. stubbornly opposed any increase in the small number already operated by the army -- these were World War II vintage Aust. or in the introduction of a new and better type. This struggle between Army and R.A.A.F. had gone on since 1947 when I was D.D.M.O. I continued it when I became D.M.O. and subsequently B.G.S. and finally got it resolved when I became C.G.S.

In brief, I succeeded in obtaining approval to form the Army Aviation Regiment to be equipped with modern light aircraft and helicopters.

Note: The R.A.A.F. was once part of the Army. The R.A.F. originated as part of the British Army. The U.S.A.F. was part of the U.S. Army. Control by the army stifled development of the full capabilities of air power and the Air Forces then gained their independence. The air forces then neglected the tasks they were supposed to carry out for the armies and, in their turn, tried to prevent the army (and Navy) doing so themselves!

Another problem which was difficult and of great concern to me as C.G.S. was promotion of senior officers (above rank of full Colonel). The army system of selection and promotion is very thorough and controlled by a Promotion and Selection Committee under the supervision of the Chief of Personnel (formerly Adjutant General). I believe it to be fair and a very good one. All officers who have a satisfactory record of service and qualify at the required examination are promoted to rank of major in order of seniority when they have served the prescribed number of years. Above that rank promotion is selective -- the best majors, regardless of seniority, are the ones who are selected for promotion to the rank of Lieut. Col. and beyond. My own policy was to select for promotion to Lieut. Col. only those majors whom I considered would eventually be suitable for promotion to full colonel, i.e. two ranks up. I was not always able to apply this policy because we had a rapidly expanding army and not sufficient majors, meeting my criteria, to fill the Lieut. Col. vacancies. So we necessarily had to promote some who, although they became satisfactory Lt. Cols. did not have the capacity to go beyond that rank.

The same applied in some cases on promotion to the rank of colonel and eventually we had some colonels promoted to the rank of brigadier who had not the capacity to be a major general. Selection of Brigadiers for promotion to Major General was critical. A Major General has to be employable in a wide variety of responsible appointments, i.e. Command appointments, Military Board appointments, Defence Department or Joint Service appointments, etc.

(footnote) Some of the decisions I had to make were not popular with, or adversely affected, many of my contemporaries including some of my oldest and best friends. This caused me distress but I took the view that the best interests of the army were paramount.

On several occasions, whilst C.G.S., I had problems and embarrassment on the postings of Major Generals for a variety of reasons: physical fitness, personal and domestic reasons, personality problems, lack of expertise or experience (which should have been gained in a lower rank) etc. The net result was that some Major Generals, although suitable for the job they were in, could not be posted to other jobs. This meant that the best and more versatile major Generals were subject to frequent repostings to meet service requirements. In a wartime situation these problems would be more easily resolved.

Another problem was to get the Defence Department to process decisions on promotions and appointments for Major Generals six months ahead of the event so that the consequential changes in the lower ranks could be planned in advance.

These recollections of my period as C.G.S. would not be complete without reference to the inter-relationship between the authority and responsibilities of the C.G.S. and the Secretary, Department of the Army. The legal aspects of this were confusing and contradictory and the net result was that efficient and harmonious cooperation between the two was dependent upon personalities. This was not a satisfactory solution to either party as it could cause delays, frustration, duplication of effort and misunderstanding. Control and administration of the Army at the top level (under the Minister) are too important to be dependent on personal relationships.

I hasten to add at this point that I enjoyed excellent personal relationships with Mr B. White who was Secretary, Department of the Army, throughout my time as C.G.S. We both tried hard to make a bad system work effectively. This had not been the case with White's predecessor who eventually was transferred from his post because of his inability to work with members of the Military Board.

Fundamental to an understanding of the C.G.S.-Secretary problem are two major points:

First:

The terms "Supremacy of the Civil Power" and "Civil control of the Military" need clarification and definition. To some public servants it means control through or by Public Service officials. To the Defence Forces it means control by Parliament through the Minister.

Second:

The difference between a normal government department (i.e. Civil Department, e.g. Department of Customs) and Service Department (i.e. Military Department, e.g. Department of Army) needed to be recognised and understood. In the former the Secretary is designated as the "Permanent Head" and, subject to the decisions and directions of the Minister, is the statutory authority responsible for all the activities of his Department. However, in a Service Department, it was the Service Board (e.g. the Military Board) which, subject to decisions and directions of the Minister, was the statutory authority collectively responsible for the command and administration of the Service (e.g. the Army). Each member of the board, including the Secretary, had his allotted function. The Service Chief of Staff was the Chairman of the Board. In addition to his responsibilities and duties as a member of the Board, the Secretary, as a Permanent Head, had other functions under the Public Service Act for which he was - directly responsible to the Minister (political and financial matters, audit, etc.).

It will be seen, therefore, that a public servant from a civil department, who was appointed as Secretary, Department of Army, could assume that he, as a Permanent Head, had authority over the Army. This was particularly so in the immediate post World War II years when the Secretary was not a member of the Military Board and the recommendations of the Board went through him to the Minister. This caused so many difficulties and friction that the government amended the regulations so as to make the Secretary a member of the Military Board.

However, at the same time they sowed the seeds of future conflict by stating that they did not intend to amend the Public Service Act so as to limit his authority as Permanent Head. on the other hand the C.G.S. was still to remain Chairman of the Military Board!

Although Secretary White and I had amicable relations and tried to make the bad system work, our efforts were made more difficult by the various Ministers of the Army. It was much easier for a Minister to do everything “through the Secretary” as was done in a civil department. This overloaded the Secretary and placed on him responsibilities for professional military and technical matters which he was not qualified to handle. Throughout my time as C.G.S. I endeavoured to change this system but made very little headway -- mainly because the Ministers were not interested in changing a system which suited them (and which most of them did not understand!). The post of Minister for the Army (also Navy and Air Force) was a very junior one in the ministerial hierarchy and for the incumbents it was usually their first ministerial post from which they hoped to be promoted as quickly as possible to a more senior one. They were, therefore, very anxious not to make any mistakes! In this mind the best way to avoid mistakes was to rely on the Secretary in all matters.

This was sound enough in the case of a civil department but in a service department there are many “minefields”, as some Ministers found out.

Towards the end of my time as C.G.S. and in consultation with Secretary White, I had prepared a draft document setting out the relative responsibilities of the Secretary and C.G.S. this document had gone through many drafts and had almost reached the stage of being an agreed final draft when I left the job of C.G.S. and became C.C.O.S.C. Unfortunately, I did not keep a copy and I don't know what happened to it in the end. I did not pursue the matter because, inter alia, I began to pursue the much wider question of reorganisation of the whole Defence Group of Departments. If I could manage to have my ideas on that subject accepted, it would also resolve the AHQ problem.

CHAIRMAN, CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

(Before reading this section my article on Defence in the Australian Encyclopaedia (1977) should be read for general background information)

I was appointed C.C.O.S. with effect from 19 May 1966 when my predecessor Air Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger completed his term of appointment. In Defence and Service circles it had always been assumed that I would be his successor because: I was the senior (by date of appointment) of the three service chiefs; under the rotation system it was the Army's turn to fill the appointment; it was considered I had wider and longer experience and had achieved success in the Command, operational, administrative and planning fields; neither of the other two chiefs was considered to have better qualifications or to be more suitable for the post. Moreover, the Vietnam war was at its height and, although the Navy and Air Force played essential parts in supporting the actions of the ground force, this was a war in which the ground forces played the predominant role and it was essential the C.C.A.S. have considerable knowledge of, and experience in, revolutionary warfare strategy and techniques as practised by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese forces. I was therefore greatly surprised one day towards the end of 1965 when the minister for the Army (Forbes) rang me and told me that a decision on the replacement for Scherger had been deferred by the P.M. (Menzies). Forbes further told me that I should not assume that I would eventually be appointed because the P.M. and some other ministers were pushing the claims of the C.N.S. (McNicoll) for the post. No decision on the appointment of C.C.O.S. had been made by the end of 1965. Then in early January 1966 the then Minister of Defence (Shane Paltridge) died suddenly of cancer after a short illness. I understand that Paltridge favoured my appointment but no formal recommendation had been submitted to Cabinet.

The P.M. then apparently decided to defer a decision until after the new Minister of Defence (Fairhall) had had sufficient time in office to make a recommendation to Cabinet. The decision had still not been

made in mid April when I departed for a routine two weeks visit to Vietnam. When I returned from that visit I learnt that a decision had been made a few days before my return and I was informed that an announcement would be made of my appointment immediately.

(Note: Sir Robert Menzies retired on 26 January 1966 and was succeeded by Harold Holt as P.M.)

Helen told me on my return that the first news she had of the decision was a phone call from John Gorton (a future P.M.) who had been so pleased that he had phoned her immediately after the Cabinet meeting at which the decision was made.

This delayed decision had meant that no firm recommendation or decision had yet been made on who was to be my successor as C.C.S. Some months previously I had told Fraser that I would recommend Daly as my successor and he agreed so there was a minimum of delay in having his appointment approved. Despite this, Daly had to move to Canberra at short notice and the same applied to his successor as G.O.C. E. Command (Harrison who two years later was appointed as Governor of S.A.)

If McNicoll had been appointed C.C.O.S. instead of me I think the Navy would have had to make an unexpected and even more hurried reshuffle of their senior officers.

Before taking over as C.C.O.S. I had only met Fairhall a few times and therefore we hardly knew each other.

Subsequently we achieved a friendly and satisfactory working relationship which was fortunate because the relationship had to stand many stresses and strains in the later years, particularly when the Secretary of the Defence Department (Hicks), vacated that office and was appointed High Commissioner to N.Z. in 1967. Hicks was succeeded by Sir Henry Bland. I will tell that story later in this diary.

In 1966 the organisation of the Department of Defence was still totally unsuited to the requirements of the post World War II era. Some marginal improvements had been made in 1958 after the Morshead Committee of Inquiry, but basic fundamental defects still remained. The department was therefore not discharging its function effectively or efficiently. There were delays, frustration, duplication of effort and misunderstanding.

In 1958 the C.O.S. had supported the principal recommendations of the Morshead Committee which had recommended the abolition of the single service departments and creation of a unified Department of Defence. These recommendations had been supported by the then Chiefs of Staff Committee. However, the government of the day had rejected them but had given directions that the desired results should be achieved by Ministerial direction and administrative action. No changes in legislation or regulations were made.

Later in 1965 the C.O.S. Committee (when I was C.G.S.) recommended a far-reaching examination of the whole organisation. Nothing had eventuated from this by the time I became C.C.O.S. in 1966 and I then resolved to reactivate the question and try and achieve progress during my period of office. Consequently in September 1967 I sent the Minister of Defence (Fairhall) a paper containing my views and recommendations. There was some progress of a minor nature during the next two years but decisions were not made on the fundamental issues. Fairhall was replaced as Minister of Defence at the end of 1969 by Malcolm Fraser, the present P.M. So in January 1970 I sent him the same views and proposals plus some proposals for immediate short-term changes for immediate improvements which were consistent with the longer term objective of a unified Department of Defence. Some minor improve-

ments resulted but by the time I retired in November 1970 the fundamental decisions had not yet been made.

After 1970 I continued my interest but was unable to do anything positive -- until 1972 when the opposition shadow minister for Defence, Lance Barnard, announced that if the Labour Party was elected in December 1972 it would create a unified Defence Department etc. Subsequently I encountered Barnard by chance at a function we were both attending and, in conversation, the question of Defence organisation arose and I told him that I had very positive views on the subject which I would be glad to put to him on a mutually convenient occasion. He welcomed my offer. Consequently, a few weeks prior to the election we had a long conversation on the subject of the organisation of the Defence group of departments and how to get it done quickly. At his request I prepared and sent him some notes on my proposals.

The Labour Party won the election in early December 1972 and Barnard was appointed not only Minister for Defence but also minister for the other four departments in the Defence group, i.e. Navy, Army, Air and Supply. On 19 December 1972 he issued a statement on reorganisation of the Defence group of departments and I was very gratified to read therein that he had decided to take immediate action on the reorganisation and even at that early stage he had made decisions on the more important specific proposals I had made to him in November 1972 prior to the elections. The remainder of my proposals would have to await the report of the Secretary, Department of Defence (Tange) who had been directed to have the study on reorganisation carried out. I had recommended such a study.

Eventually, at the end of 1973, the Secretary's report was made and its recommendations were approved by the government. Since then the necessary legislative action has been taken to give statutory authority where it was needed in place of ministerial directions of administrative decisions.

Although I do not agree with some of the details of the new central Defence administration and staffing which has resulted from the reorganisation, I believe that the fundamental principles and basic framework are sound and will meet the requirement. If there are defects in the central staffing it will become evident and they could be quickly rectified. Such defects would be apparent more quickly in time of Defence Emergency or war than under peacetime conditions.

On the whole, I am well pleased with the success of the resolve I made in 1966 to do all I could to bring about a Defence organisation suitable for modern requirements. Since 1970 I have watched developments with amused satisfaction. The action I took in 1972 to advise Barnard was, I believe, in the National interest. It was apolitical and did not influence the elections in December 1972. Nor has the question of Defence organisation been a party political matter since then. In fact, I was surprised that the Defence Reorganisation Act 1975 was passed by Parliament quickly with little debate and opposition from either the government or opposition parties.

I have referred earlier to my relationship with various ministers of Defence, namely, Paltridge, Fairhall, Fraser so I shall now refer briefly to the various Secretaries of the Department of Defence with whom I worked. All these men, as Permanent Heads, had tremendous power prior to 1975. They could block or delay indefinitely any proposal from the Navy, Army or Air Force which required approval from the Minister of Defence. Yet the Service Ministers, Chiefs of Staff, and Service Boards were vested, under the Defence Act, with the responsibility for the administration and command of their respective services.

When I became C.C.O.S.C. in 1966 Sir Edwin Hicks was the Secretary of the Defence Department. He

had previously been Secretary, Department of Air, until 1957 when he succeeded Sir Frederick Snedden. He had been a member of the Morshead Committee, which in 1958 had recommended the unification of the three Service Departments with the Defence Department. By 1966 he had been nearly ten years in the job and was tired and frustrated and was hoping for a transfer to a less onerous job. My relationship with him was very good, I had of course known him for a number of years. He was well aware of my views on the necessity for Defence reorganisation but was not prepared to lend his active support to a course which had been previously rejected. Moreover, he was in the process of coping with a new Minister (Fairhall) and neither of them wished to "rock the boat" at that stage. During the years 1966 and 1967 we managed to obtain government approval to the five year Defence programme concept and some much needed new weapons and equipment for all three services were obtained or ordered. (No major new items have been obtained since 1967). At the end of 1967 Hicks was appointed Australian High Commissioner to N.Z. and Sir Henry Bland was appointed to replace him.

Bland had been Secretary of the Department of Labour and National Service since 1952 and was more than ready for a change and eager to deal with the challenge posed by his new job. He was an experienced administrator and well versed in interdepartmental matters and the political aspects of running a department and dealing with ministers. He was a hard worker with a great capacity for getting things done -- providing it was something he wanted done. He had yet to learn that the Defence and Service Departments worked in a very different manner to a normal "civil" department of the government. He was used to being the only "boss" in his department and initially tried to ensure that this would be the case in the Department of Defence. He came to the job with many preconceived ideas, many of which were erroneous, and many delays occurred until he became "educated" on matters relating to the Armed Forces.

Because he liked controlling everything himself, he tended to intrude into military matters and this was to result in many differences with myself as Chairman of the C.O.S.C. However, despite these differences our personal relationships were friendly and close. During his time as Secretary we managed to get a number of important projects approved by the government, e.g. The Joint Services Staff College, The Joint Intelligence Organisation, The Joint Cadet College (A.D.F.A.) etc. However, he cleverly ensured that he would be included in the line of control to these organisations.

Early in his period as Secretary he became intimately involved, and interested in, the introduction of Cost Effective systems to be used in selection of new weapons and equipment etc. These systems had long been in use in U.S.A., having been introduced by McNamara, but by this time had been put into perspective as a useful tool, along with others. My military colleagues in U.S.A. used to tell me that their proposals had been studied and analysed to death by civilian analysts in the Department of Defence who had no interest, or responsibility, in getting the required new weapons and equipment to the troops. A classic example of this was the F-111 bomber which was the result of studies ordered by McNamara to provide a basic light bomber aircraft which would meet requirements of both the Navy and Air Force, whose operational requirements were quite different. When the aircraft was produced it proved to be unsuitable for operating from aircraft carriers which was what the Navy wanted it for! The aircraft is an excellent one for the air force and has proved itself, but it would have been better and less expensive and available earlier had its design not incorporated features required by U.S. Navy but not by U.S.A.F.

Anyway, Bland was so enthusiastic about cost effectiveness as a concept, which incidentally was new to him, that he pressed on with introducing a full scale system in the Department of Defence and

ignored the lessons of the U.S. experience. The net result was that for the two years or so that he was Secretary there was a great deal of study and analysis but no significant orders of new weapons or equipment were processed. One of the victims during this period was the light destroyer required for the Navy. Originally proposed by the Navy to meet a much-needed requirement, this destroyer was to be Australian made. Each destroyer would have only one major weapons system and one major role, i.e. either anti-submarine or anti-aircraft, plus a gun and helicopter so that both versions would have a capability as patrol boats. These light destroyers would have been low cost and three of them could have been built for the cost of the much larger multi-role destroyers already in the Navy. By this time the project had been analysed and studied for several years by Bland and his C/E experts. The project was no closer to finalisation because Bland and Co. kept suggesting that the new ships should have more versatility and have a multi-role capability. This meant, of course, that a much bigger (and expensive) ship would have to be designed, i.e. the multi-purpose destroyer whose use for patrol purposes would be uneconomic and in any case we could not afford to build enough of them to do the job. It was not until 1976 that the government decided to order two U.S. built multi-purpose destroyers. In 1977 it was decided that orders would be placed in Australian ship yards for an unspecified number of patrol boats of British design.

So, nine years had been lost and still the best answer to the problem had not been provided for! I should add here that within each of the Navy, Army and Air Force new projects are carefully evaluated by service officers with operational experience before the projects are put forward for approval and included in the Defence programme. The primary purpose of the defence approval is to ensure that the new weapons etc. are required to meet approved Defence policy and strategy on a joint service basis (i.e. the same war at the same place and time).

The above can be considered as only a very brief reference to a vital and complex matter. Bland initially deferred discussing with me the question of Defence reorganisation on the grounds that he needed time to study the existing system before making up his mind as to what was needed. This was fair enough then, but even by two years later he had not had a full-scale discussion of the matter with me. By this time he had learnt a great deal, but still had a great deal to learn. Bland had no experience as a serviceman during World War II or thereafter. Moreover, his experience as a civilian (public service) had been in other than Defence fields. However, we had achieved some progress in establishing the Joint Staff, J.I.O., Joint Staff College, which have been referred to earlier. By the end of 1959 Bland had decided to resign, partly for reasons of ill-health, and partly for family reasons -- his wife had never been happy in Canberra after being up-rooted from her home in Melbourne in 1967. In fairness to Bland, I must say he genuinely believed what he was doing was in the best interests of Australian Defence and was pro the Services. He certainly caused a shake-up and caused a great deal of rethinking and tidying up to take place. Despite our differences, I liked him and was sorry to see him go, and became even sorrier when his successor, Sir Arthur Tange, took over and showed his true colours.

Tange had formerly been Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and had then been posted to India as Australian High Commissioner. He was still there at the time he was recalled to become Secretary, Department of Defence. Like Bland, he had never had any military service nor served as a civilian in the Department of Defence. His main contact with Defence matters had been when as Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, he was a member of the Defence Committee. (The Defence Committee consisted of the Secretaries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Treasury, Supply and Prime Minister's Departments plus the C.O.S. Committee.) He had a reputation in political circles for being a good administrator. This view was not shared by his colleagues in the Department of Foreign Affairs, nor subsequently by those officials and service officers who had to work with him in the Department of

Defence. I cannot recall him initiating anything in that Department. He was more of an analyst and critic and often very hasty in his judgments. He was rude and abrasive, and soon became very unpopular in the Department of Defence. Being a clever, intelligent, articulate man himself, he despised those less endowed with these attributes than himself. These, of course, included most of the service officers with whom he came in contact. As an experienced diplomat, if he had chosen to achieve his ends by diplomacy instead of autocratic methods, he would have had more chance of success.

Fortunately for me, I had less than a year to go before retirement at the time Tange arrived in the Department of Defence. Needless to say, I made no headway with him with my proposals for Defence reorganisation. However, I managed to get to discuss a draft which defined the relative responsibilities of the Secretary and the Chairman C.O.S.C. After my departure this document was finalised, and then approved by the Minister of Defence. However, when I retired, I did not abandon my efforts to achieve a more effective Defence organisation. As recounted earlier in this journal, this was eventually achieved in 1976. It was with ironic pleasure I watched from afar the process by which Tange was directed to prepare and submit for approval a detailed plan for implementation of the basic proposals which I had put forward originally in 1967 and which both Bland and Tange had refused to discuss with me.

It is also inevitable and ironic that, in the future, Tange will be credited with bringing about the reorganisation! At the time of writing (1977), Tange has been Secretary, Defence, for eight years -- an impressive length of time. As I left the scene at the end of 1970, I cannot comment on his performance but I am wondering how long he will last. Fraser was already minister of Defence when Tange arrived in Defence and it was not long before differences and clashes of personality and points of view became apparent. Now Fraser is P.M., I'm wondering what relationships between him and Tange are like.

Throughout my period as C.C.O.S.C. the Vietnam war continued and watching and studying the situation there and being the link in Canberra between the government and the Commander of our Force in Vietnam was a constant and onerous task. Before our force was committed, I had gone to Vietnam and negotiated with the U.S. Command in Vietnam a "Military Working Agreement" providing for the policy for employment of the force and its op. command and its area(s) of deployment, provision of combat and logistic support etc. I had also negotiated with the Vietnam Military Command, as necessary. All these matters were embodied in a Directive to the Australian Force Commander which was approved by the Minister of Defence on behalf of the Australian Government. It was then my responsibility to ensure that the Australian Force Command acted in accordance with the directive and to provide him with all possible support and assistance in my power and guidance, where necessary. From the reports made to me by the Force Command I kept the Australian government informed about the situation and operations of our force. Should a matter arise which was not covered by the Directive, it would be for me to get a decision from the government. I must record that the Australian government behaved very correctly and did not attempt in any way to interfere with the tactical operational employment of the Australian force in Vietnam. In this we were more fortunate than the U.S Military Command in Vietnam who were constantly plagued by political interference from Washington in tactical military matters. Of course, any change in the size and composition and cost of the Australian force in Vietnam (AFV), and its logistic support from Australia, was rightly a matter for the government to be concerned with. These occurred on a number of occasions and after discussion in the Defence Committee a report and recommendations were submitted to Cabinet for decision. In this way the Cabinet received the necessary advice containing political and economic views, as well as military views.

At the time of my retirement in November 1970 the question of reducing our force commitment in

Vietnam was still under close consideration.

Further details of my close connection with Vietnam are contained in the separate folder labelled "Vietnam Notes". However, I wish now to mention some points not covered in these notes.

As recorded earlier, I had first visited Vietnam in 1962 at the conclusion of my appointment as C.M.P.O. of S.E.A.T.O. Thereafter I visited Vietnam at least twice every year until I retired. In this way I was able to see at first hand the changing political and military situation in Vietnam and keep in touch with the Vietnamese and U.S. military leaders and make personal contact with the Australian commanders and troops in the field. These latter contacts were of the greatest importance to me as well as to the Australians in Vietnam. Although I have earlier said that we were not subject to political interference in military operational matters, there were a few occasions when there was criticism well after the event in a few cases. The most noteworthy of these was by the then Minister of Defence, Malcolm Fraser, who on one occasion visited Vietnam with me. After discussion in Saigon we had planned to visit our Task Force at Nui Dat together. Unfortunately, I could not go to Nui Dat with him because my negotiations with the Vietnamese Command were not complete and I was due to leave Saigon next day for a S.E.A.T.O. meeting elsewhere and Fraser also had to leave for New York. So Fraser went to a briefing by the Task Force Command without me. When he returned late that evening he was in an excited state and accused me of misrepresenting to him the situation in Phuc Tuy Province. He had obviously misunderstood the briefing and formed wrong conclusions about the very complex situation in the province. He then proceeded to criticise an operational deployment out of Phuc Tuy province of part of our Task Force a year earlier at the time of the Tet offensive and alleged that this had caused a deterioration in the situation in the province. This was not true. Although I gave him sound logical military reasons for the deployment (which were covered by the directive) I could not convince him he was wrong. Because of lack of military knowledge and experience he could not understand. Also he was suspicious by nature and once his suspicions were aroused, he remained suspicious thereafter. This was most unfortunate because it adversely affected all our relationships thereafter even on matters not related to Vietnam. (Note: Clearly the T.F. Commander must have given Fraser an unbalanced briefing. Subsequently when I spoke to this Commander, he admitted this was the case.)

On another occasion after the decision had been made to reduce our force, Fraser criticised the Army by leaks to the press, for planning to reduce the Civic Action programme. This was not justified and unfair and inaccurate. The facts of the matter were that confidential instructions were given that no new Civic Actions plans which could not be completed before the planned date of the reduction of the T.F., were to be commenced. (See press cuttings)

In a conflict, especially an undeclared war such as in Vietnam, each side seeks to impose its will on the other. This is done by force combined with psychological war. Psychological war aims to weaken the morale of the opponents' troops in the field and also to weaken the will to win of the government and civil population. The North Vietnamese were very good at psychological war, particularly that aspect aimed at the government and people of U.S.A. and especially on the university campuses.

In Vietnam there was no censorship or control of the media reporters on the Allied side, however the opposite was the case on the North Vietnamese side who exploited the situation and undoubtedly their propaganda was widely used by the media in U.S.A. (See also Vietnam notes). So, we saw during the years from 1964 onward a gradual erosion of the will to win on the part of the government and people of U.S.A. The same occurred in Australia but not to the same extent. In my opinion the psychological war success of the North Vietnamese was one of the major factors leading to the Allied failure to win the war in Vietnam.

As C.C.O.S. I became the Australian Military Adviser in the S.E.A.T.O. As mentioned previously, this entailed attending meetings of the Military Advisers Group every six months. Every alternative meeting was held in Bangkok and the other meeting was held in the territory of each member Nation in turn. So during my five years as C.C.O.S. I again visited U.S.A., the Philippines, New Zealand. The frequent visits to Bangkok suited me well because I could visit Vietnam also either en route to. or from, Bangkok.

Before concluding this section I must pay a tribute to the Australian Defence Forces who, although very small in number, by 1970 had become one of the best professional forces in the world. All three services had a hard core of officers and senior N.C.O.s who had seen active service in Korea, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam, and their expertise and achievements were admired and respected by our Allies. During the post World War II years they had had to cope with successive reorganisations and two N.S. Training Schemes and at the same time maintain our operational commitments overseas. This imposed very severe demands on the hard core of professional officers and N.C.O.s. I'm proud to say that the forces responded willingly, cheerfully and competently with all demands made upon them whether in their primary role or in assisting the civil authorities to deal with emergencies such as bushfires, floods and hurricanes. It should be noted also that these men were often separated from their families by the exigencies of the service and there was much turbulence in their family life generally.

In March 1970 I visited U.S.A. as the official guest of the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (General Wheeler). The invitation also included Helen. A jet aircraft was placed at our disposal for the duration of our visit which included most bases and installations of Joint Service interest. From the moment we landed at San Francisco our hectic 10 day itinerary commenced. Included in the itinerary were: Las Vegas (F111 training base) -- Colorado Springs (Air Defence Cmd HQ) S.A.C.H.Q. (Strategy Air Command), Nebraska - Cape Kennedy Mississippi Fort Bragg N. Carolina (Airborne Forces Cmd) (Naval HQ) Norfolk Virginia -- Washington D.C. (The Pentagon). These were all one or two night stops. The normal procedure would be for the Cmd to meet me to take me away for briefings and to see the more important items and installations of military interest. Helen was taken away and well looked after by the ladies (wives) of the senior officers of the base. We all joined up together for dinner at night. On arrival at the military airport at Washington D.C. we transferred to one of the President's helicopters and were flown direct to the Pentagon where a guard of honour greeted me with full military honours. General Westmoreland, who by this time had become Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, met me on behalf of General Wheeler. I later had long discussions with General Wheeler and his senior staff. Whilst in Washington we were house guests of the Wheelers.

On conclusion of the Washington visit, we flew to New York for a two day rest period after which we commenced our return journey by Qantas. In October 1970 I attended a S.E.A.T.O. meeting in Honolulu and I had decided to pay a farewell visit to N.Z. on my return journey to Australia so we stopped off in Wellington and I paid my farewells to the N.Z. C.O.S. Whilst there we were house guests of the Hicks (Australian High Commissioner). Whilst there I received a phone call from Malcolm Fraser asking me, after I had retired, to be a member of the Kerr Committee which was to examine, report and make recommendations on the pay and conditions of service of the Defence Forces. I had previously decided that if invited to do this, I would decline. I felt I needed six months rest after retirement; also I wanted to interest myself in a part time civilian occupation. I knew that this Committee would take at least two years on its task, and if I was tied up with it, it would preclude my being able to accept offers of civilian employment which might come my way. Fraser was surprised and annoyed when I turned down his offer. I think, in his usual impatient way, he had intended to make an immediate announcement about the Kerr Committee. On the phone he extracted from me a promise

to think the matter over for a few days and to see him on my return from N.Z. When I eventually saw him he exerted his considerable powers of persuasion and flattery to get me to accept. He put it to me that no-one was in a position to do the job as well as I could and that I owed it to the Defence Forces to see that the Kerr Committee fully understood their case etc. etc. Eventually I accepted with the proviso that I would not join the Committee until I had had three months leave after retirement.

My last two months in office were very busy and I brought as many as possible of my minor, but important, projects to their final stage. In fact, I was so busy that I neglected to retrieve from the office copies of a variety of letters and papers I had personally prepared. These would have been of much value in assisting my memory in the writing of this journal.

At midday on my last day in office, 22 November 1970, my colleagues of the C.O.S. Committee arranged a farewell parade in my honour -- the honour guard included a contingent from each of the three services. In addition, the R.A.A.F. staged a fly past with their usual impeccable timing over the parade. So ended forty-four years in uniform!

THE KERR COMMITTEE 1971 - 1972

In agreeing to be a member of this Committee I had made it clear to Fraser that I was doing so reluctantly as a duty by his special request and that he was not doing me a favour by appointing me. I had also spoken in similar vein to Kerr and he had agreed that I would not attend meetings of the Committee for three months after I retired. I did, however, agree to attend the first meeting of the Committee which was to be held before I retired, on 3rd November, 1970.

All members of the Committee were present, namely: Chairman: Mr Justice Kerr. Members: Mr H.T. Rogers, Personnel Director of A.P.M.; Commissioner E.G. Deverall of the Arbitration and Conciliation Commission; Mr S. Landau, Secretary, Department of Navy; and myself.

At this meeting the Committee decided that its meetings and hearings would be of an informal nature and that it would also invite written submissions from any interested party. It was also considered essential that the Committee should visit every major base or installation of each of the three services so that the members of the Committee could see at first hand the conditions under which the Defence forces lived and operated, both in Australia, and overseas, under active service conditions. The problems facing married personnel were to be given special attention.

So during the two and a half years I served with the Committee we met on the average one day per week and periodically made visits to bases etc. throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and Vietnam. For all members of the Committee except myself these visits were absolutely essential and very educational because none of them had any experience of service life and its exigencies.

The realities were brought home to them when they visited Vietnam -- I saw to it that they were taken everywhere without exposing them to danger.

The Committee worked well together in a harmonious way with no serious disagreements and the end result was an excellent report and unanimous recommendations which were accepted by the government. The Defence Services now enjoy pay and conditions of service comparable to those given in civil life far equivalent responsibilities, duties and skills etc., with automatic adjustments when civilian awards change.

The success of the Committee depended greatly on the Chairman and Secretariat who worked full time

on the job. We were very fortunate indeed in having such an able person as Kerr to chair the Committee. I had first met him in Washington in 1943 -- he had, come to U.S.A. to do a course in military government. I saw him occasionally during the Post World War II years but I got to know him very well during 1971 and 1972. Early in 1973 he was appointed Chief Justice of N.S.W. and of course subsequently became Governor-General in 1974. It is a great tragedy that during his last two years of office he has been subjected to a vindictive campaign of abuse and hatred for doing what he considered to be his duty according to the Constitution. Although there was no precedent for what he did, the situation he had to deal with was unprecedented.

Although I had been reluctant to become a member of the Committee I enjoyed it once I became involved and believe I made a worthwhile and necessary contribution to the work which could have been done only by someone with experience such as mine. In the process I learnt a great deal about how wages and conditions of service are determined and administered in civil life. Nevertheless, my commitment with the Committee had precluded me from seeking or accepting part-time occupation such as directorships.

CONSUL GENERAL, NEW YORK

One of the alternatives which had always been in the back of my mind was a Foreign Affairs post as Ambassador. If I had had a choice I would have chosen India -- I knew the country and could speak Urdu. Towards the end of 1972 I had made up my mind that if a suitable Foreign Affairs post were offered, I would accept it. Accordingly, through an intermediary, I made this known to the then Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Waller, whom I had known for many years.

In due course Waller invited me to call and see him and he told me that it was unlikely that a suitable post would become available during the next six months but would keep me in mind. I told him I was in no hurry and also that I had no wish to cause resentment amongst the senior F.A. personnel by being appointed to a post to which one of them would otherwise have been appointed. He agreed with this and said that occasionally a situation did arise when a senior F.A. man was not available and it suited the Department, to appoint a suitable "outsider" with qualifications such as mine.

In December 1972 there was a change of government and I heard no more from Waller until April or May 1973 when he wrote and said that a mutually suitable vacancy would occur in July and August and that he would put my name forward if I was still interested. I told him I was; so it was that in due course I was offered the post of Consul General, New York. This was a post I had not previously thought about and my first inclination was to decline. However, after discussion with Helen and some thinking I decided to accept. After all, I knew quite a lot about U.S.A. and had many American friends. Also from the family viewpoint it had advantages -- good living conditions and no health or other hazards, no language problem and Helen's sister lived near New York and our son John was living in U.S.A. So I told Waller I would accept the post and eventually it was announced in July 1973 that I was to be Consul General New York in succession to Sir John Bates and that I was to take office at the beginning of September 1973.

Early in 1973 Lance Barnard, who had become Minister of Defence in the new Labour government, approached me and invited me to be Chairman of a Committee into the Citizen Military Forces. I told him that I would accept the task only if it could be completed by the end of July. We then proceeded to draft the terms of reference. However, it soon became apparent that what Barnard required was a much more comprehensive enquiry than I had envisaged and that it could not be completed in less than one year. By this time -- April 1973 -- I had agreed to go to New York as Consul General so, after further



discussion and consultation with Barnard, it was decided that another person would be appointed as Chairman. Accordingly, Dr T.B. Millar, Director, The Australian Institute of International Affairs, was appointed. The report of the Committee was completed in March 1974. Millar did an excellent job and his recommendations were accepted by the government. In retrospect, I'm quite sure he was a better choice for the job than I -- he had an early career in the army before changing to an academic life. Also he had written a book on Australia's Defence. He had no preconceived solution to the C.M.F. problem and brought a trained mind to consider the problem objectively. At an early meeting of the Committee I had an opportunity of expressing my views fully.

Helen and I had decided that we would make a leisurely journey to New York and go by sea to San Francisco and then overland by train from San Francisco to New York. So we booked our passage on the Arcadia leaving Sydney early in August 1973. We had to pay the difference in cost between the sea and air fares, the former costing about \$1200 more than the air fare.

Before departure I spent a week or so at the Department of Foreign Affairs being briefed by the heads of the various divisions and some calls on other departments. Then in July I went on a series of familiarisation visits to places around Australia to bring me up to date on new developments.

Accordingly, I went to Western Australia to see the enormous mining developments which had taken

place in the N.W. -- new railways, roads, new ports, new towns etc. Then to the Ord River region and the new irrigation areas. On to Darwin and saw the many changes which had taken place including a very interesting visit to the Aboriginal Reserve in Arnhem Land. I also visited the big aluminium open cut mine at Gove on the Gulf of Carpentaria. A quick visit to Alice Springs, then I flew to Mt Isa in Queensland to see the mining of copper and lead. A final visit immediately before sailing from Sydney was to visit the huge B.H.P. complex at Port Kembla. Helen accompanied me on this occasion and she had a very exhausting day as the management insisted on us seeing everything! So we walked miles through the various enormous smelters, mills etc. It was therefore very pleasant to embark in "Arcadia" for a very restful and enjoyable cruise across the Pacific to San Francisco via Noumea, Fiji and Honolulu. On arrival at San Francisco, we were met by son John and representatives of C.G., San Francisco at the wharf and escorted to an hotel. John had chiefly been in San Francisco for two years, studying Indian classical music. The C.G. San Francisco looked after us very well and, after two or three days of discussions and sightseeing, put us on the train for New York with some misgivings because to travel all the way across the U.S.A. by train was considered to be a most uncomfortable method of travel and was unpopular because of the bad conditions of the tracks and rolling stock. Despite all this, we enjoyed the trip and were most interested to observe the mountains and plains and forests through which our train passed. Had we flown by air we would have seen nothing.

We arrived in New York on the morning of September 19th and it was a warm pleasant day. Captain Savige (ex R.A.N. whom I had known well in my S.E.A.T.O. days), who was then the Deputy C.G., met us and escorted us to the C.G.I's apartment at 1 Beekman Place -- said to be the most prestigious address in New York!

At this point I should record that I shall include in this journal only a brief outline of my period as C.G. Full details can be found in a separate file of documents, reports etc. which are located in filing cabinet.

At 1 Beekman Place, New York, the Australian government owns and maintains two commodious furnished apartments on the 5th Floor. One for the C.G. and one for the Ambassador to U.N. The apartments overlook the East River and the U.N. gardens. In the basement of the building are a gymnasium, two squash courts and a fine 25m. heated swimming pool. The apartments are conveniently located with reference to the C.G.'s office and the Ambassador's office on 5th Avenue (10 minutes) and to other places on Manhattan Island most frequently visited by the C.G. (and the Ambassador) during the course of their official and social duties. In short, if one has to live on Manhattan Island, it would be hard to find a better location than 1 Beekman Place! The facilities, service and security available are better than any other apartment building on the island. J.D. Rockefeller III, who owns an apartment on the top floor, obviously agrees!

During my first few days at the office I made a point of visiting every section within the Consulate-General and meeting every person employed there. At that time there were about 30 Australian based people and about 90 locally employed. These latter were mostly Australians, New Zealanders, British etc. who were temporarily living in New York. In the C.G.'s office in addition to the Consular section there were sections from the Treasury, Auditor-General, Customs, Immigration, Australian Information Service, National Library, a Procurement and Shipping Section, and finally the office of the Australian Trade Commissioner, New York.

Although I was responsible for the office as a whole, particularly on matters of policy, and where coordination was required, the heads of each section dealt direct with their own departments in Canberra on routine matters. They were required to keep me informed of their activities. (See C.G. file for further

details)

My main personal task was to represent Australia's interests generally and make high level contacts at the State and municipal level, and in financial, industrial and commercial circles in New York. In my consular district were the 22 states in the Eastern part of U.S.A. (excluding Virginia and Maryland which were covered from our Embassy in Washington).

In the course of my two and a quarter years as C.G. I paid visits to all of these states. This was a very large area stretching from Maine in the north and Louisiana in the south. During these visits I called on the Governors in each state capital and on the mayors of the principal cities which I visited.

During these visits I took the opportunity to address luncheon gatherings or other meetings such as E.S.U. (English Speaking Union), Rotary, D.A.R. etc., and talked to them about Australian affairs and development etc. All this was part of the "flag showing" exercise and to meet and influence influential people and leading citizens and get them interested in Australia. Most of the occasions were mixed gatherings and, as Helen accompanied me on all my visits, she was of enormous assistance on such occasions. There were a number of other factors operating in favour. Most of the people I met and spoke to knew very little about Australia but they did know about the relationship between the Australian and U.S. Forces in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and were very favourably disposed. My being a retired Army general who had become a Consul General also intrigued them. They were also much impressed by the fact that I was a "knight" and Helen a "lady". There were many amusing incidents arising out of this. Also, in many of the places I visited I found either retired or still serving U.S. generals or admirals whom I had known during my service life in New Guinea, Korea, S.E.A.T.O. and Vietnam.

During our visit to South Carolina I made a point of visiting Charleston where my old friend General Westmoreland had settled after he had retired as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. These visits were hard work but they were interesting, rewarding and worth while. They also gave me the opportunity to escape periodically from New York which I found gave me a feeling of being "shut in" by the tall buildings, the incessant traffic with its noise and pollution, and the high density of the population. This fortunately did not worry Helen. She loved the shopping etc. and soon had a large circle of friends.

As the senior Australian representative in New York, we had a demanding official social life and also a busy personal social life with the many friends we made. Then there were the cultural and-sporting activities which involved Australians, e.g. tennis and Americas Cup. We were frequently invited as guests to the Metropolitan Opera House and saw many operas and ballets. Whenever British royalty visited New York, Helen and I were on the guest list at the various functions. Helen became a frequent visitor to the various museums (galleries) to see the world famous paintings and other works of art displayed there. We also went to the theatre often and saw some very good plays.

Most of the Australian VIPs who came to U.S.A. usually contrived to visit New York and the C.G. was required to look after them and their entourages. Amongst the many who visited there during our time were the P.M. (Whitlam) and most of his senior ministers. We had known most of them in Canberra when Labour was the opposition party and we got to know them even better as visiting government ministers! Also some members of the Liberal Party, then ex-ministers, visited us. These included Peacock, Snedden, Cotton and notably, Bill McMahon and his charming wife, Sonia.

When we first went to New York the Australian Ambassador to U.N. was Sir Laurence MacIntyre. We were old friends but I should add that our tasks in New York were entirely different -- his was to repre-

sent Australia at the U.N. and cultivate the representatives of other member nations of the U.N. He was succeeded early in 1975 by Ralph Harry, whom I had also known for many years. Our Ambassador in Washington was Sir James Plimsoll who was succeeded in 1974 by Sir Patrick Shaw - both of these men were also friends whom I had known for many years.

It should be noted that the Australian Ambassador in Washington represents Australia with the U.S. government on the Federal level. As the senior Australian government representative in U.S.A., he is responsible also for oversight and coordination, as necessary, of the Cs.G. in U.S.A. In practice, this is rarely required and the Cs.G dealt direct with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra but kept the Ambassador informed of any important occurrence or development in his Consular district.

Activities which now (1977) stand out in my mind as highlights during my term as C.G. are:

- * A visit, accompanied by Helen, to Grenada in the Caribbean to represent the Australian Government on the occasion of Grenada's independence.
- * First official tour as C.G. This was to the Southern States including Georgia where I met Governor Jimmy Carter, the future President.
- * The Americas Cup yacht races at Newport with Bond's yacht, the Southern Cross, as the challenger.
- * Seeing the finals of the U.S. open tennis championship at Forest Hills.
- * A visit to the Bahamas on leave.
- * Visits to Long Island and New Jersey and Martha's Vineyard to stay with friends.
- * A leave visit to Kingston in Canada.
- * The paper repercussions in my office, in New York on the political and financial crisis in Australia in October/November 1975.

On personal and family affairs, I should record that shortly after arrival in New York I went to see a medical specialist Dr Leifer at the Presbyterian Columbia Medical Centre for a check. I had been referred to him by Dr W. Morrow in case I needed medical attention whilst there. Leifer detected that my left carotid artery was clogged and, unless the deposits of plaques there were removed, I could have a stroke. So an operation was quickly arranged -- a cartioid endartecomy -- and successfully carried out. I quickly recovered and felt physically much better than I had for several years now that I was again getting a full flow of blood to my brain! So it was indeed fortunate that I went to New York and had the best possible physician and surgeons to diagnose and deal with my medical problems. Dr Ralph Veenema, the urologist, also deserves special mention for his treatment and care of my problem, including the successful use of radio therapy.

In December 1973 John decided to leave San Francisco and give up Indian classical music and come to New York and try to get a job in the film or publishing worlds. He came and lived with us in New York. After some months he managed to find a lowly opening with a magazine. Since then he has worked his way up the ladder and is now art director of a magazine. It was good having him live with us and get to know him again.

Then early in 1974 Virginia, having completed three years in New Guinea, including two years as a high school teacher on Manus Island, decided to come to New York and pursue her studies in Russian

Languages and Literature at Columbia University. Virginia is now a B.A. (A.N.U.), M.A. (Columbia), and has set her sights on obtaining a Ph.D.(Columbia). She also came to live with us at Beekman Place. So, with the exception of Robert, we now had the whole family with us in New York. However, at the end of 1974 Robert, Cathy and Cassandra visited us in New York for about a month so for at least a period the whole family were again living under the one roof. We were indeed fortunate in having the commodious apartment at Beekman Place plus domestic staff which made this family reunion both possible and enjoyable.

Early in September 1975 I had been notified the name of my successor and told he was unlikely to arrive until early in 1976. So there would be a gap between my departure and the arrival of my successor. This was not unusual in Foreign Affairs postings and I saw no reason to delay my departure because McCloskey, the Deputy C.G. was quite capable of officiating as Acting C.G. On 29 September 1975 I was notified that there had been a change and my successor would be Peter Barbour, ex-head of A.S.I.O.!

Before I was appointed C.G. it had been agreed that the duration of my appointment would be until my 65th birthday -- 65 being the age for retirement of Commonwealth Public Servants. So in August, 1975 we commenced planning our return journey to Australia. We again decided to travel by sea from San Francisco to Sydney and with the assistance of our shipping friends in New York, managed to secure a very good cabin on the "Mariposa" sailing from San Francisco on 5 November 1975. October 1975 was, therefore, our last month in New York and it was a very busy one for us, from a domestic viewpoint, as well as of the office of C.G.

During this month there were successive financial crises in Australia as the Senate had not approved the Supply Bill passed by the House of Representatives, and so the necessary funds for the salaries and wages of government employees and for other inescapable expenses of administration were not available. In 1975 the C.G.'s office in New York I had to impose very drastic cuts in the use of telephones, postage, stationery, travel, etc. to the extent that the office was barely able to function at all, let alone carry out its proper function. When I finally departed from New York at the end of October it seemed very doubtful whether the wages of the staff would be paid in November!

Helen and I flew from New York to San Francisco to embark in the "Mariposa", departing San Francisco on 31 October 1975. During the voyage we would call at Los Angeles, Honolulu, Tahiti and Auckland, N.Z. on November 10th we were at sea between Honolulu and Tahiti when we heard over the ship's radio a news flash that the Whitlam government had been dismissed by the Governor-General! Due to bad radio reception, we did not get any further details until we went ashore at Papeete two (days?) later! It was very frustrating! However, I was very relieved to know that the staff in the C.G.'s office would receive their wages on the next pay day.

"Mariposa" is a much superior ship to "Arcadia" -- a smaller number of passengers all first class who did not overcrowd the facilities available. Food and service were excellent. We had a very pleasant voyage and enjoyed our brief visits to the various ports of call, particularly Auckland and the Bay of Islands which we had not previously visited. During the voyage we met and became friends with Dr Peter Waugh and his wife, Pat, who is also a doctor (radiologist). They have a practice at Parramatta. Pat Waugh turned out to be a sister of (Brig) Ron Evans whom we knew very well. Peter Waugh was very helpful in arranging a very quick medical check-up for me on the day we arrived in Sydney.

On arrival there on 25 November 1975 we were met by the local F.A. representative. Also the Customs and Immigration officials had obviously got the "word" from their colleagues in the C.G.s office. The

net result, we were off the ship first and in a matter of minutes ushered into the car which was to take us to an overnight accommodation at the I.S.C. Also on hand to meet us were Aunty Margaret and Gwen Anderson. The next day we returned to Canberra by train where we were met by R. and C. with whom we stayed for a few days until our furniture and other belongings had been delivered to 11 Melbourne Avenue from storage. Our goods from New York also were delivered on time and in excellent condition which is more than I can say for those stored in Canberra -- some of the latter were badly damaged and they even lost two of our beds and a large pottery elephant which I had brought back from Saigon -- one of a pair. Regrettably, I had under-valued these items on the inventory and of course therefore did not receive the replacement value of the lost items! It was necessary for me to spend a week or so after return being debriefed by F.A. and other departments. There were also a few calls to make, including one on the Governor-General, who welcomed me as an old friend.

So ended my C.G. days and, in effect, my official working life.

1976

During January 1976 we spent most of our time at our beach house at Batehaven. Much work was needed there to get the house repaired and repainted etc. -- this work dragged on through most of the year owing to difficulty in getting the various tradesmen onto the job.

Similarly, at 11 Melbourne Avenue, it was not until the end of 1976 that all the repairs and repainting were completed.

In July 1976 we drove to Alexander Heads on the "Sunshine" coast in Queensland to escape the worst of the Canberra winter. Although it was, of course, much warmer than Canberra, we found the weather disappointingly cool and wet. Apparently it is necessary to go much further north to get the really warm weather in June, July and August.



1977

Again spent January at Batehaven. The Wattsford's from Canada spent a week with us. Also the Norris'. We also went down there at least once a month throughout the year for three to four days at a time. A pleasant change from Canberra. Also in winter, about 100 warmer.

Daughter Virginia visited us in July and August and we enjoyed having her very much. When the time for departure to U.S.A. arrived, we all drove down to Sydney and stayed at I.S.C. for a few days. We were very sad when we finally had to say goodbye at the airport.

This year made an effort to bring this journal-cum-diary up to date and at this point it is complete enough for its purpose although I have left space to enter additional information if necessary.